

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIII.]

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BIRTHS.

At "La Lyra," Kampong Java Road, Singapore, the wife of Mr. NATHANIEL RUCHWALDY, of a daughter (stillborn).

On the 14th February, at 53, Grange Road, Singapore, the wife of J. O. ANTHONISZ, of a daughter.

On the 25th February, at 15, Mosque Junction, the wife of Mr. M. J. E. DA CUNHA, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Hankow, on the 14th February, by the Rev. Griffith John, D.D., ALBERT LISTER GREIG, L. M. S., Yochou, to ELIZABETH AUGUSTA WYLIE, L. M. S., Hankow.

DEATHS.

On the 16th February, 1901, at the General Hospital, Shanghai, WILLIAM HAMBLIN, aged 24 years.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on Sunday, the 17th February, 1901, GEORGE SAMUEL WILLIAMS, late 2nd Engineer of the steamer *Fungshun*, aged 26 years, son of Mrs. J. T. PEARSON and the late Captain W. WILLIAMS.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 25th January arrived, per M. M. steamer *Annam*, on the 25th February (31 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

3,000 picked Shantung troops are being sent by Yuan Shikai to escort the Emperor Kwang Hsu from Heianfu to Peking.

The *N.-C. Daily News* learns that the German naval authorities are engaging pilots with a view to an eventual expedition up the Yangtze River.

Private advices received in Shanghai from Heianfu report the flight to Ninghsia of Princes Tuan and Chuang, Duke Lan, and General Tung Fuhsiang.

It is announced that the Japanese Commander, Major-General Fukushima, will return from North China when Field Marshal Count von Waldersee leaves there for Japan.

A Tientsin telegram to the *Mainichi* reports that Austria has taken possession of nearly 500,000 *tsuko* of land on the left bank of the Peiho at Tientsin, just above the Italian concession.

The Boxer leaders Chih-sui and Hsu Cheng-yu have been executed, in the presence of a representative of the Allied Powers. Yu Hsien is officially reported to have been beheaded at Lanchow.

Arrangements are being made for the despatch of a number of Chinese from Foochow district to Sarawak to cultivate the ground. The proposal is to send 2,000 men within the next two years, all to be of the farmer class. 600 men have already left for Sarawak.

Advices received at home from Malta on the 21st ult. reported the battleships *Canopus* and *Ocean* had been ordered to proceed to China, and the *Ocean*, Captain the Hon. Assheton G. Curzon-Howe, left the port on the 23rd for that destination. The *Glory*, *Goliath*, *Canopus*, and *Ocean* are sister vessels, which were laid down in 1896.

The British Government has apparently definitely decided to have a Resident in Johore. This is an appointment that has been contradicted. It would seem that the appointment is likely to be made this time. As Mr. Clifford's services will now be available, on relinquishing the Governorship of North Borneo, it is possible, of course, that he might receive the new post.

A Tokyo telegram of the 13th ult. states:—Field Marshal Count von Waldersee's plan to visit Japan was telegraphed to a certain reliable party in Tokyo. The Governor of Hiroshima, who is in Tokyo at present, is discussing with the Government matters relating to the accommodation of the German Commander while at Hiroshima. It is reported that the Commander will visit Tokyo as well.

On the 22nd ult. the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro* sank at Fort Point, San Francisco harbour, with a loss of 104 lives. Among those drowned were Mr. Rounseville Wildman, United States Consul-General at Hongkong, Mrs. Wildman, and their two children, Messrs. C. Dowda and H. C. Matheson of Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Hart of Manila, and Captain Ward of the *City of Rio de Janeiro*. The news reached Hongkong on the day of the disaster.

Prince Ching and Li Hung-chang, according to the *Asahi*, have appealed to the Government at Heianfu to recognise that the troops under Governor Yuan are the best drilled and most disciplined of all the Chinese troops and that some companies of them should therefore be chosen as an Imperial bodyguard. They have notified the Governor of the matter, but Yuan made three conditions before he would accept the arrangement.

According to a Tokyo despatch to the *Asahi*, the Japanese Government has decided to introduce into the Diet a series of regulations imposing certain taxes upon foreigners holding perpetual leases in the former Settlements, which they have hitherto declined to pay on the ground that the treaties distinctly state that no further taxes than those already paid shall be imposed on such property. Mr. Denison, the Foreign Adviser of the Government, has, it is stated, had the task of drafting the Regulations. It is not explained how the provisions of the treaties are to be surmounted.

An *Asahi* telegram of the 14th ult. from Peking says:—It is reported that 30,000 Russians are assembled at Kinchow, north of Port Arthur. It is understood that the Russians intend to occupy the town permanently, and the Chinese at Peking are much excited. Another *Asahi* despatch, dated Seoul, 15th February, says:—The Russian Minister to Seoul was again received in audience by the Korean Emperor last night. The *Kojo Shim-bun* reports that the Russians at Masampo are pressing the local Governor to hold the third auction of land promptly or to accept responsibility for the damage caused by his hesitation in the business.

Acting on instructions from the War Office, the military authorities here are despatching to Peking at an early date four hundred men of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers to relieve the Australian contingent, which has been stationed in the capital since the relief of the Legations, and is now to return home. The relieving force will be made up of one hundred men each from B, D, F and G Companies of the Fusiliers, and will be under the command of Major Everitt. They are to be retained as a part of the permanent Legation Guard, and as preparations for their departure are being rapidly pushed forward, it is expected that the men will leave for the North in a few days' time.

The Japanese Premier, Marquis Ito, making a statement in the House of Peers on general business before the Imperial Diet, touched on the question of readjustment of finance. The Premier said he had long appreciated the necessity for some such measure even from before the Japan-China war. He had undertaken to begin the work several times, but he had as yet failed to carry it out into effect. The post bellum undertakings, which had resulted in a remarkable expansion of the Government finances, had led him to feel the necessity for investigating the national resources, both for practical and financial reasons. Not only had the Government extended public works, but the people were also eager in promoting all sorts of new enterprises, one after the other, without the least regard for the national resources. Immediately on entering office last year, he had begun an investigation of the national resources which he had long had in mind.

THE PEKING NEGOTIATIONS.

(Daily Press, 23rd February.)

The Japanese native papers give some details about the conferences between the representatives of the Powers and the Chinese Plenipotentiaries at Peking during the early part of the current month, which are fuller than those which have yet reached us from other sources. A Peking telegram of the 6th inst. to the *Jiji* states that on the previous day the "second conference" between the international and the Chinese negotiators took place, when at the outset the question of inflicting punishment on members of the Imperial family was discussed. The Chinese Envoys asked the Ministers to be satisfied with the decapitation of Prince CHUANG and YU HSIEN, and pleaded for the life of Prince TUAN on the ground that he was a near relation of the Imperial Household. The foreign representatives made no reply, and closed the conference, stating that if that was the Chinese attitude the peace negotiations might have to be abandoned. However, says the *Jiji* correspondent, they promised to consider the matter before the next meeting. The *Mainichi* correspondent adds that the representatives of the Powers dictated the following terms:—(1) Prince TUAN to be imprisoned until he is decapitated, instead of being imprisoned for life as suggested by the Chinese Government; and (2) eight others, Prince CHUANG, YU HSIEN, LAN, TUNG FUHSIANG, YUNG LU, CHAO SHU-CHIAO, LIEN, and YING NIEN, to be decapitated. It seems, however, probable that there was no actual demand made at the conference, and the other Japanese native papers state that the foreign representatives delivered an official document to the Chinese envoys either on the 7th or on the 8th inst. In this the *Asahi* says that they demanded the imprisonment of Prince TUAN and LIEN for life in a remote district, the ordering of Prince CHUANG to commit suicide, the execution of TUNG FUHSIANG, YU HSIEN, YING NIEN, CHAO SHU-CHIAO, and two others; the cancellation of honours bestowed during their lifetime on KANG-YI and LI PING-HENG and the restoration to office of certain friendly officials who have been degraded. The Chinese Plenipotentiaries professed to be unable to reply to these demands and telegraphed to Hsin-fu for instructions from the Imperial Court.

The tale of the negotiations is at best a tangled one, and there are various discrepancies between our previous accounts received via Shanghai and the Japanese versions set forth above. Our own correspondent made the numbers of heads demanded eleven, including those of the authors of the Chuchow massacre, and this report is supported from many sources. But with all the differences in the accounts, the actual progress of negotiations remains substantially the same. The Chinese Plenipotentiaries were exercising all their subtlety to evade the carrying out of the penalties demanded, and only a very firm front on the part of the Allies could meet them satisfactorily. The expedition which Count von WALTERSEEE projected was designed to hasten China's compliance with the demands of the Powers, and if the Court remained recalcitrant it was only logical that hostile measures should be resumed. The expeditions, it was promised, were to cease on the acceptance by China of the proposed terms, and except for a few isolated affairs with brigands and pirates fighting has been discontinued during the present year. Count von WALTERSEEE, no doubt, felt that the policy of the Powers would be absolutely stultified by inaction in face of the Chinese

Government's passive resistance. Nor can it be said that such an attitude on the part of the Commander-in-Chief was unreasonable. But many of the Governments of Europe and that of Washington have already shown that they are heartily tired of the war. The revelations as to the manner in which it has been carried on in Chihli have had some effect, and a revulsion has been created since the state of indignation which prevailed last summer toward China. This is not unnatural, but nevertheless a most serious blunder would have been committed if the Powers had followed divided counsels. At no time more than at the present has unanimity been needed. We brought the Chinese Government to a certain point, in spite of all the resources of diplomacy which none know better how to use. If we had begun to falter we were certain to lose all the results of our previous labours. Count von WALTERSEEE was acting in logical accordance with the plan to which the Allies gave their support previously, and he therefore should be supported if a military demonstration unfortunately became necessary. To show now that we are unwilling to back up our words with deeds would have been criminal, for it would only prolong indefinitely a crisis which has already inflicted incalculable wounds on China and exhausted the patience of the foreign Powers who have relations with her. Fortunately, however, we learn by our London correspondent's telegram that China, or rather the Chinese Government, has yielded to the Powers' demand for the punishment of the officials. A report is also stated to exist that LAN, TUNG FUHSIANG, and probably Prince TUAN (the name is mutilated in the telegram), though they are to be condemned, may be allowed to escape by a commutation of their sentences to banishment for life. The reason for this special favour to LAN and General TUNG is not obvious; in the case of Prince TUAN his Imperial blood has saved him. In the other cases it is to be presumed that the death penalty will be carried out. That the *Times* is correct in its surmise that Count von WALTERSEEE's threat is responsible for the sudden submission of China few, we think, can doubt. It is a most happy result from a move dictated by commonsense.

THE EVACUATION QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 28th February.)

Our Tientsin correspondent warns us against the rumours current in that port about the rapid removal of the British troops, but nevertheless from private sources in the North we learn that preparations for the almost immediate departure of our forces from North China were, more than a fortnight ago, far advanced, and the date given for beginning the embarkation was on or about the 15th March. Doubtless every Englishman will breathe the freer when the time comes that the troops, which were sent to China unwillingly, may be safely retired, and the only question remaining is whether or not there is any possibility of the period being so near. There are many reasons why our Government should desire to determine a foreign occupation; in the first place it is in most cases a sheer waste of force when the occupation is not intended to be permanent, and in the second place it is enormously expensive keeping a force in a foreign country where nearly everything has to be imported, and those supplies purchased on the spot have to be paid for at famine prices. Owing to centuries of misgovernment, the North of China has ceased to be a productive country; the population presses on the means of produc-

tion, and a slight extra demand unhinges the local markets. Still an enormous expenditure has taken place on what may be called the capital side of the account in bringing the occupying troops to the front, and another enormous expenditure has to be faced in removing them. The cost and wear of keeping the force on the spot is only the additional expense of keeping it up in China as compared with India, and looking at the mere economics of the situation, it would certainly be a false economy to attempt to remove it until the object of the occupation were indubitably attained. It would not be the first time, even in China, that a too hasty withdrawal has had to be supplemented by the despatch of another force on an increased scale; and at the very moment we find, after prematurely withdrawing the mobile portion of our army of occupation from South Africa, that we have had to send a still larger force to accomplish the tasks which we had unwisely supposed were ended. Now in China we have a precedent directly to the point. In 1858, Lord ELGIN concluded the treaty of Tientsin, so far as the signatures were concerned; but he omitted the very important element of making it effective, and took away the force in view of which the Chinese Court had directed its representative to sign. When the next year, unbacked by any tangible means of enforcing the provisions of the treaty, the Minister elect presented himself at the entrance of the Peiho, he found the passage barred. The Chinese had reasoned that the occupying force having been withdrawn before the work in hand was accomplished, the reason was that the occupation had proved too expensive, and the British Government feared from economic reasons to continue it, much less to go to the expense of renewing it. We know the result; a larger force had to be sent out to accomplish what the first should have done, but did not. Even this second force through the too easy acquiescence of Lord ELGIN left the end of its task incomplete, and we have had to seek the remedy by the despatch of our present army of occupation. As long as the means of enforcing them were in sight the Chinese Government was no doubt perfectly sincere in its promises of abiding by its stipulations. Lord ELGIN, we know, as Sir JOHN DAVIS before him, was perfectly charmed by the ready acquiescence displayed. Nothing could have been nicer; the whole Government from the Emperor down had turned over a new leaf, and all were devoted believers in the new regime that had come to regenerate China. History tells us what happened; and how it required a new war and a new treaty before the first stipulation in the previous, that of residence in Peking, was possible. *Ex uno disce omnes.* The Chinese Government has at last consented to punish those chiefly responsible for the "Boxer" enormities; but the sentences have not yet been carried out, and much difficulty may be experienced by the Court before this can be effected. The presence of foreign troops in Peking and Tientsin is the best, the only guarantee that justice will be done. "Forewarned," we are told in the proverb, "is forearmed," or so it ought to be. But is it? Let the revival of disaffection in South Africa, and the result of Lord ELGIN's fatuous retreat from Tientsin be in evidence, before our Government determines on a course which will entail not only dishonour, but even from the narrow economical field of view must result in disastrous loss.

The death is reported from Foochow of Dr. Underwood, a well-known medical practitioner at Pagoda Anchorage.

BRITAIN'S SEA TRADE.

(Daily Press, 25th February.)

That England should continue to hold a practical monopoly of the seaborne commerce of the world is not to be expected, and probably is not desirable. The fear is that through too much self-confidence she may so much mismanage what she is justified in considering her fair share that she may wake up too late, and find the most profitable portion of what remains gone beyond recovery. It was only half a century ago that she was largely dependent on outsiders for the conveyance of her goods to and from China; and the manner in which she raised herself from the backward position in which she found herself during the fifties should be an useful object to her in the near future. There are a few still alive in China who remember that the principal portion of the tea, which in those days formed the main article of export from China to Europe, was carried in American clippers; and that we are indeed indebted to the United States for the loan of that word. In these days, too, nearly the whole of the coasting trade of China was carried in American and Continental bottoms, and the most frequent flag to be seen in Chinese waters was not the red ensign, but those of the northern European states, Norway, Oldenburg, Hamburg, or Bremen. The trade of our Australian Colonies was largely, if not mainly, conducted under the American flag, and it looked as if the "meteor flag" of England were about to take its departure from the seas, which England had once ruled without a rival. Mr. MICHIE in his recent work *The Englishman in China* has given a most interesting account of the struggle and the manner by which little England's empire of the seas was regained. The opening of the gold diggings of California had much to say to this temporary supercession of British shipping. A vessel carried out to the new El Dorado a number of emigrants, or perchance a cargo of stores for the miners; finding on her arrival at San Francisco no return freight available, she stretched across the Pacific to China, and was at once laid on the berth to carry teas to Europe, at that time entirely dependent on China for its supplies. She was easily able to take lower freights than the ship which had made her toilsome journey out by the Cape, until by degrees these ships built for the San Francisco route came almost to monopolise the trade. At that time wood was the universal material for ship-building, and with the practically inexhaustible supply furnished by the newly opened districts in the States, the Americans found they could outbid the British builders. Unhampered by tradition the people of the North-Western States commenced to increase the length of their ships, and soon found that while the speed was considerably increased their vessels lost nothing in seaworthiness. The navigation laws of the States made the long journey from New York to San Francisco a coasting voyage in which no outsider could compete, and thus the New England builders had the trade in their hands in both directions, an opportunity of which they did not fail to avail themselves. It seemed under circumstances little better than an act of insanity on the part of the British Government of the day to select this period of greatest depression, when the shipping trade was already well nigh ruined, for the abolition of the last barrier to extinction in the entire repeal of the Navigation Laws. So assured were, however, the leading spirits of the day of the truth of their fetish, Free Trade, that

they easily induced a willing Parliament to throw open to the world the entire coasting and colonial trade of the Empire. The shipping interest not unnaturally held that if under the protection of the old laws, they were scarcely able to subsist, under a system, which even in the home trade exposed them to untrammelled competition, the entire trade must pass into foreign hands. That it did not is one of the strongest proofs of the indomitable courage which has more than once come to the rescue of the nation when the prospect looked most gloomy. A few of the leading shipowners met together to discuss the situation. We must put our shoulders to the wheel, said the chairman, and see if we cannot accept the challenge and turn out ships to beat these Yankees. Taking thought of the improvements that had been introduced by the Americans, the English builders strove to tackle them on their own lines, and the China trade was the field chosen. The first ships made a good struggle, though beaten in the long run; but the experiment was hopeful, and those who were in China will remember the excitement on the issue of the annual ocean race from Foochow to London. Grandeur ships than the *Thermopylae*, the *Leander*, the *Tai ping*, and a few others, were never turned out from a launching slip; and it became difficult to foresee what might have been the ultimate result; when, alas for the glory of the tea clipper, the Suez Canal was opened, and with the introduction of the steamer, the short-lived splendour of the clipper came to an end. The struggle, however, had left its marks deep in the national character. The British shipbuilder was not this time taken at a disadvantage. When the Suez Canal was opened the British ship-owner was ready and prepared. His steamers were already built and his shipyards were ready to meet the demands of the world; and for many years he may said to have supplied its mercantile navies. That he richly deserved success not even his greatest enemies, and they are many, have attempted to deny; his prosperity was the result of no turn of fortune's wheel, but was the outcome of his own sagacity. He foresaw the wants of a new world, and met them boldly. But what the British shipbuilder has done is open to his rivals, and some of them in some respects have advantages he did not possess; America has even finer and richer deposits of iron, and it is to his credit that already, before America herself, he is utilising this fact. So Germany has at the moment a cheaper supply of labour, and has been utilising it so ably that the largest and quickest steamboat at the moment afloat has recently been turned out of a German shipyard. The record for size is, however, only momentary, as already the British reply is rapidly approaching her launching. This is a competition in which both may win, and as it has been brought about by fair fight, no Englishman need repine. It is true that in other industries England, not only comparatively but actually, has been losing ground, but he would be a rash man who would assert that within a single generation the energies of England have so declined that she cannot in 1901 do as she did in 1870, and make the world her debtor. It is well to remember that in the middle ages England was dependent on Germany and the Low Countries for many of the staples which she now supplies to those countries, and in the course of trade all staples must find their level. If every country could supply equally well the staples of its neighbour, there would, it is always well to remember, be no occasion for trade; and the entire world would become stagnant.

This is the great mistake of the Protectionists, who would strike away the very foundations of trade in their anxiety to prop it up. England, we are convinced, would in the long run lose far more than she gained were she to become the "Universal Provider" of all her needs.

EUROPEAN FLEETS IN CHINESE WATERS.

(Daily Press, 27th February.)

The news brought by the last mail from home that H. M. battleship *Ocean* left Malta on the 23rd ult. for this station, and that H. M. battleship *Canopus* was to follow her, though there is no official confirmation of the news, will be received with satisfaction by those who for the last year have been pointing out the insufficiency of the British squadron in these waters in view of the large increase made to their naval strength in the Far East by other Powers. The *Ocean* and *Canopus* are of the same class as the *Glory* and *Goliath*; in fact, all four are sister-ships. All alike are of 12,950 tons displacement and 13,500 indicated horse power. Though due to be completed at various dates, the *Ocean* at the end of 1898, all are 1900 ships and all cost between £840,000 and £890,000. Their speed is 18.5 knots and they are armed with four 12-inch guns and a large assortment of guns of less calibre. The arrival of the *Ocean* would bring the number of the first class battleships on the station, temporarily at least, to five, which would restore to Great Britain once more the lead of which she was dispossessed when Germany raised her number of battleships last year to four. There is also the Russian fleet to be considered in the comparison, for the announcement has been made at St. Petersburg this month that the present political complications in the Far East necessitate an increase in the Russian squadron here. Russia has at present the *Petropavlovsk* (10,960 tons displacement), the *Navarin* (10,206 tons), and the *Sissoi Veliky* (8,880 tons), to which we may add the *Sevastopol* (10,960 tons). All these carry four 12-inch guns, but the highest speed attained is by the *Sevastopol*, 17.5 knots. The four German battleships *Brandenburg*, *Kurfürst Friedrich Wilhelm*, *Weissenburg*, and *Wörth* are all of 10,038 tons displacement, 16 knots speed, and carry six 11-inch Krupp guns and an assortment of lesser calibre. It is to be trusted that there is to be seen in the reported strengthening of our battleship contingent in Far Eastern waters the first sign of grace and that it portends the awakening of the Government to the state of affairs out here. A short while ago a naval critic of evident authority writing in the *Globe*, after reviewing the comparative positions of the British and foreign fleets, said: "We may be certain the British Squadron in China could give a fairly good account of itself, although we should like to see it further reinforced by another modern battleship and a couple of cruisers of the *Cressy* type." The critic seems now likely to have his desire gratified, for at least one battleship seems certain, and rumours have been busy with the name of the *Cressy* in connection with China, and the service papers hint at the probability of a similar cruiser to follow her out here.

The report of H.M. Consul for South Formosa states that the total exports of sugar amounted, in 1899 to 692, 622 cwt., value at £305,403, being a decrease from the previous year of 100,361 cwt. in quantity, and £18,716 in value, of which 99,480 cwt. at £15,625 and 881 cwt. at £3,691 represent the decreases in brown and white sugar respectively.

THE CENSUS.

Daily Press, 26th February.

In looking at the figures arrived at by the Census of the Colony taken on the 18th January, it is interesting not only to compare the figures of the 1897 Census (as is done in the return supplied to us by the Colonial Secretary), but also those of 1891. By doing so we see before us a record of ten years' growth of our Colony. The full report on the returns is not yet published, so that it is impossible as yet to estimate the growths of the different nationalities except as distinguished into the two classes of non-Chinese and Chinese. In the year 1891 the strength of the non-Chinese population (of whom 3,115 were naval or military) was 7,891 males and 2,555 females; that of the Chinese, 149,694 males and 61,301 females; giving thus a total of 10,446 non-Chinese and 210,995 Chinese, and a grand total of 221,441. Now the non-Chinese population exclusive of the naval and military forces, is 5,824 males and 3,403 females; the Chinese, 196,351 males and 72,065 females; giving totals of 9,227 non-Chinese and 268,416 Chinese, and a grand total of 277,643. Thus the non-Chinese civil increase in the ten years is 1,048; the Chinese increase is 57,421; and the total increase, exclusive of army and navy, 58,469. Taking into consideration now the census of 1897, we shall find that the deduction of this rather bewildering array of figures is that while in the first six years of the decade the increase to our Chinese population was roughly seven times as great as that to the non-Chinese element, the proportion in the last four years was not five times as great. But, nevertheless, numerically the Chinese majority is growing at a vast rate and threatens to become a serious problem, especially on the mainland. We shall have an opportunity, when the full results of last month's Census are made public, of considering how the various districts into which the Colony is divided have fared. Then also the different elements composing the non-Chinese section will have been separated. At present we can see that the growth of population is not flagging and that the failure of the years 1891-1897 to attain the estimated figures has been compensated for by the rate of increase in the years 1897-1901. Various reasons tend to make a Census not altogether reliable, particularly in such a place as Hongkong, and the unexpectedly small figures of 1897 were perhaps to be attributed to some of the causes suggested at the time. But in the present year the date appears to have been well chosen, and except that the entry under the heading of Mercantile Marine is obviously unrepresentative, the figures should represent the true state of affairs. When the fuller details are to hand it will be possible to estimate the true value of the returns.

Mr. Joseph Hodges Choate, who has been appointed arbitrator between England and China in the case of the wrecked *Kowshing*, is perhaps the most popular man in England who is not an Englishman. His speeches are always as interesting as they are eloquent, and often Mr. Choate has taught us things about ourselves which many of us did not know before. His speech on the history of Downing Street is a case in point. Mr. Choate is said to be sacrificing an income of £20,000 a year by devoting himself to the public service. He is the first lawyer in America. It was he who got a declaration from the Supreme Court of the United States that the Income-tax imposed a few years ago was unconstitutional, and for this triumph against the Revenue, Mr. Choate received one of the biggest legal fees on record—£20,000.

THE LOSS OF THE "CITY OF RIO."

(Daily Press, 25th February.)

We give to-day what particulars are obtainable of the fearful disaster to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, which left this port on the 22nd ult. and was to have arrived at San Francisco on the 19th instant. Instead of so doing, she was wrecked in the harbour of the latter place on Friday and one hundred and twenty-two lives have been lost. Details of the actual catastrophe are at present almost entirely lacking, and we can hardly hear much of the circumstances of the wreck for some weeks. What we do know unhappily must come as a terrible shock to residents in Hongkong, for a very well known figure in the Colony has been removed for ever. Mr. ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN for four years has worked in our midst as Consul for the United States at this port and has been familiar to us alike in his official, literary, and social capacities. His consular work won the appreciation of his own Government and his compatriots in the East, and at the same time he was always courteously ready to impart such information as he could to all of other nationalities who asked for it. His earlier editorial experiences left him with a ready pen, and his various books have been received by the reading public here with as much pleasure as in America. With Mrs. WILDMAN he has been well-known as a social entertainer, and even as host and hostess alone they will be sadly missed. The sudden fate which has befallen them and their two children comes as a great blow to their friends here, and all will join us, we are sure, in offering a sincere tribute of sympathy to the families of both, and particularly to those near relatives who are known to residents of Hongkong, the brothers of the Consul and his wife, the latter of the two now Acting Consul to this port.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 22nd February, 7.30 p.m.

The Rev. W. S. Ament, the Peking missionary charged with abetting converts in looting, has been entirely exonerated.

Under pressure of Count von Waldersee's threatened expedition, the Imperial Court at Hsianfu has conceded all the Powers' demands.

An Imperial Edict has been published ordering the officials at Peking to prepare the Palace in the Forbidden City. The Court is starting for Peking at the latter end of March.

The Tientsin-Peking Railway was positively handed over to the British yesterday, the 21st instant.

SHANGHAI, 24th February, 7.15 p.m.

Being greatly unpopular at Hsianfu, Lu Chuan-lin, the reactionary Grand Councillor, has asked the Emperor's leave to exchange posts with Wei Kuang-tao, Viceroy of Yunnan and Kweichow provinces.

SHANGHAI, 25th February, 7.55 p.m.

Reliable private advices from Hsianfu state that Princes Tuan and Chuang, Duke Lan and General Tung have all fled to Ninghsia for refuge.

SHANGHAI, 27th February, 7.31 p.m.

The Chinese Plenipotentiaries at Peking have wired to Cheng Tachen announcing that peace is now close at hand and expressing their congratulations on the good news that

an amnesty has been granted to political prisoners who escaped the Board of Punishments when the Allied troops entered Peking.

Governor Yuan Shikai is sending 3,000 picked troops from Shantung to escort the Emperor on his way to Peking.

SHANGHAI, 28th February, 7.31 p.m.

It is officially stated that Yu Hsien was beheaded at Lanchow on Friday last.

Native reports are current to the effect that Li Lai-chun, the protégé of Prince Tuan, and General Tung Fuhsiang have rebelled with 5,000 troops near Lanchow.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday afternoon, the 25th ult., a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR (Sir HENRY BLAKE, G.C.M.G.).

HON. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN, K.C. (Attorney-General).

HON. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

HON. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

HON. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

HON. BASIL TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

HON. C. P. CHAIER, C.M.G.

HON. DR. HO KAI.

HON. J. THURBURN.

HON. R. M. GRAY.

HON. J. J. KESWICK.

HON. WAI A YUK.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

PAPER.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the returns of the Superior Court for the year 1900.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minute No. 9, and moved that it be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Finance Committee (No. 3) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE PUNISHMENT OF FLOGGING.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Punishment of Flogging. He said—I should like to say that this Bill does not alter the law, but makes clear the present state of the law, which is rather difficult to gather from the various alterations in the different Ordinances.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE LAWS RELATING TO TRUSTEES.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Trustees. He said—This Bill was referred some time ago to the Standing Law Committee. It was examined by that committee and certain amendments were made. As amended by the committee I propose that the Bill be read a third time.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE LAWS RELATING TO RATING.

The next item on the agenda was—"Third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Rating."

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said—Just before coming into the Council it was pointed out to me that in the definition of the city of Victoria the eastern boundary is described as—"A straight line from the skew bridge at the south-west corner of Causeway Bay to Wong-nai Chung public school-house, produced southward until it meets the southern boundary." I am

informed that the skew bridge here mentioned has been recently done away with. I therefore put myself into communication with the Director of Public Works, and he suggested that instead of the words "skew bridge" we should use the words "centre of the nullah crossing the Shaunkwan Road." In order that the alteration may be made I propose that the Council go into committee to consider the clause relating to the definition of the city.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

While in committee the Council agreed to the suggested alteration, and on the Council resuming the Bill was, on the motion of the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, read a third time and passed.

THE LAW OF LIBEL AND SLANDER.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Law of Libel and Slander. The Bill, he said, brought the law of Hongkong into line with that of England. The Chief Justice was preparing a new edition of the Statute Laws of the Colony, and in the course of considering the defamation and Libel Ordinance, 1887, for insertion in that work, it was noticed that amendments had not been made in this colony, although the Imperial legislation on which the Ordinance was based had been modified by recent Acts of Parliament. The present Bill, in conjunction with the Ordinance of 1887, would have that effect.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and on the Council resuming, no alterations having been made, the Bill was read a third time and passed.

RIGHTS OF NATURALISED PERSONS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to repeal all Ordinances for the naturalisation of persons as British subjects within this colony, and to make provision for the preservation of the rights of such persons. He said he only wished to move the second reading, without going into Committee, as he desired the Bill to stand over till next meeting, there being some few cases of persons mentioned in the schedule not having taken the oath of allegiance. It was probable that some of these persons were dead, but some of the others might possibly come forward. In the case of those who had taken the oath but were dead, he did not think it would be wise to strike them out, because the question might arise as to whether their children were born after naturalisation. In the case of the others who had not taken the oath, it was quite clear their names should be struck out.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The consideration of the Bill in committee was deferred.

It was pointed out by His Excellency that while all children born in the Colony during British rule are British subjects, it must be understood that the children not born in the Colony, of deceased persons, for whom a Naturalisation Ordinance had been passed, but who had not taken the oath presented in such Ordinance, are not British subjects, and that to become so they require naturalisation.

REVISION OF JURY LIST.

The question of the revision of the jury list was considered privately by the Council, which rose immediately after.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council meeting, the Colonial Secretary presiding.

There was only one minute recommending the Council to vote a sum of \$260.42 to defray a portion of the cost of extra provisions supplied to the New Territory Police Stations during the disturbances in Junelast.

The vote was agreed to.

An amalgamation of the oil companies in Echigo, Japan, which it is proposed should be formed into one company under the title of the Imperial Kerosene Company, is projected. Seven companies, it is reported, have already agreed to amalgamate. The object is to compete with the Standard Oil Company.

THE DISASTER TO THE "CITY OF RIO."

TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

CONSUL-GENERAL WILDMAN AND FAMILY DROWNED.

A profound sensation has been caused in the colony by the news of the terrible disaster to the *City of Rio de Janeiro*, one of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company's fleet.

The first intimation appears to have been received by Mr. Wiley, the local representative of the Sperry Flour Company, who, as we reported in our Extra on Saturday, the 23rd ult., received the following telegrams:—

San Francisco, 22nd February, 4.10 p.m.

City of Rio sunk Fort Point; all passengers landed safely.

San Francisco, 22nd February, 6.5 p.m.

Several lives lost.

A sense of relief was experienced when it was announced that all passengers had been landed safely, particularly when it was remembered that Consul-General Wildman and family were among the passengers, the other saloon passengers being Mr. D. M. Castle and Mrs. Castle, Mr. J. K. Carpenter, Mrs. Katie Nicols, Mr. H. F. Seymour, Mrs. C. K. McIntosh, Mrs. K. West and Mr. F. B. Lee. Mr. W. Kloman, a passenger for Hamburg, was also on board at the time of the disaster.

The second telegram caused great concern. It was hoped, however, seeing that the vessel was so close to land, that most of those on board had been saved. This hope was dashed to the ground by subsequent telegrams, which gave some details as to what had occurred, namely, that the *Rio* was wrecked in San Francisco Harbour; that there was a terrible panic on board; that 122 lives (including 24 saloon passengers and 19 officers) had been lost; and that 200 mail bags had gone to the bottom. It was eight o'clock on Sunday morning before Mr. J. S. Van Buren, the local agent of the Pacific Mail and the O. and O., was apprised of the disaster, his wire being to the effect that the vessel was a total wreck, and that Consul-General Wildman and family and Mr. H. F. Seymour (formerly connected with a Manila newspaper) had gone down.

The terrible fate which it is feared has befallen the United States Consul-General and his family has occasioned the most intense grief among the large circle of friends with whom they were acquainted. The children were two in number—a bright little boy of about seven years and a baby girl of eighteen months—and the agony which a devoted husband and loving father, such as Mr. Wildman was known to be, when he saw that there was no help for his loved ones must have been too horrible to contemplate. The United States Vice-Consul, Mr. Aldrich, is Mrs. Wildman's brother, and naturally the terrible news has completely prostrated him.

Having been hard at work in the colony for some four years past, Mr. Wildman had long looked forward with eagerness to his trip home. He purposed returning to Hongkong in June, it being arranged that Mrs. Wildman and children should follow later on. Having been closely in touch with the Philippines since the commencement of the trouble with Spain, he was thoroughly conversant with everything connected with the Archipelago, and consequently had been requested to call on the authorities at Washington while in the States for the purpose of conferring with them on Philippine affairs. Both he and Mrs. Wildman will be greatly missed in the colony.

Mr. Rounseville Wildman, M.A., M.L., was born at Batavia, N.Y., on the 19th March, 1864. He was the son of the Rev. Edwin Wildman, M.A., Ph.D., and Helen Rounseville, who was the daughter of Colonel James P. Rounseville, LL.D. He was educated at the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, Lima, N.Y., and the University of Syracuse. He had had considerable experience as a writer and a journalist. From 1888 to 1890 he was editor of the *Idaho Statesman* (Boise), and from 1894 to 1897 was editor of the *Overland Mail* (San Francisco). In 1891 he became United States Consul for Singapore, a post which he held until 1892, during which period he was made Commissioner of the Smithsonian Institution for Malay

Peninsular and Siam. In 1893 he was Consul at Barmen, Germany, and at the World's Fair which was held that year represented the Straits Settlements and Penang. He was appointed United States Consul for Hongkong in 1897, and was promoted to Consul-General in 1898. He was connected with several of the learned societies in America and had made a name for himself as an author and a contributor to the leading American periodicals. His Malayan tales are most charming little sketches, whilst his latest book is generally considered to be one of the most readable books on China extant. On June 3rd, 1890, Mr. Wildman married Letitia Aldrich, daughter of Judge Louis Aldrich, of California, and granddaughter of Henry S. Foote, late United States Senator and Governor of Mississippi.

It appears that Fort Point, where the disaster is reported as having occurred, is but a few miles from San Francisco. It is accounted a somewhat dangerous spot. The current is very strong and the water is deep, but what makes it especially dangerous are the heavy fogs which are frequent and often remain for hours at a stretch.

The *City of Rio de Janeiro* was built in 1878 by Messrs. J. Roach and Sons, of Chester, Pennsylvania, and was of 3,548 tons gross and 2,275 tons net register. She was 344ft. long, 38ft. beam, and 28ft. 9in. depth of hold. Her machinery was constructed by the Union Iron Works. The *Rio* first ran between New York and the Brazils, under a contract with the Brazilian Government, and when the contract expired the Pacific Mail Company bought her and the *City of Para*. From then everything went smoothly with her until about three years ago, when she went ashore in Van Diemen's Straits, and Captain Smith, who was then in command, took her to Nagasaki, where she was docked. Captain Smith had charge of her some considerable time. When transferred to the *City of Peking* he was succeeded by Captain Ward, who joined the company in 1874. Captain Ward was one of the most popular captains entering the Hongkong harbour, and his lamentable end has occasioned general regret. As we have before stated, 19 officers are among the drowned. They include Captain Ward; Chief Officer Johnson, Chief Engineer Herlihy, and Dr. O'Neil. The withdrawal of the *Rio* from the run between here and America had been contemplated for some time, the *Peru* having been chosen to take her place.

CENSUS RETURNS FOR THE COLONY.

We are indebted to the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, for the following statement of the census of the colony, the taking of which was commenced on 18th January. All the returns, with the exception of that for the New Territory, have been completed, and a comparison with the figures for 1897, when the census was last taken, shows the extraordinary increase that has taken place in the population. The analysis does not include the military and navy. The following are the details:—

NON-CHINESE CIVIL POPULATION.

	Year	Male	Female	Total
British Kowloon	1901	641	290	931
	1897	471	245	716
Increase		170	45	215
Rest of Colony	1901	5183	3113	8296
(Not including New Territory,	1897	4499	3267	7766

Increase	684	—	Incrs.
Decrease	—	154	530
Total Non-Chinese			
Civil Population	1901—5824	3403	9227
	1897—4970	3513	8482

Increase	854	—	Increase
Decrease	—	109	745

CHINESE POPULATION.			
Victoria	1901—128,556	45,538	174,094
	1897—115,154	45,119	160,273

Increase	13,402	419	13,821
The Peak	1901—1571	100	1674
	1897—1485	106	1591

Increase	89	—	Increase
Decrease	—	6	83

Hongkong Villages (Including Gap Rock and Stone- cutter's Island)

1901— 9895 3627 13,432
1897— 8211 3488 11,699

Increase 1594 139 1732
British Kowloon ... 1901—32,747 10,110 42,837
1897—19,202 7240 26,442

Increase 13,525 2870 16,395
Mercantile Marine 1901— 1180 — 1180
1897— 1498 25 1523

Decrease 318 25 343
Boat Population 1901—22,509 12,690 35,199
1897—19,872 11,880 31,752

Increase— 2,637 810 3,447

Total Chinese

Population 1901—196,351 72,065 268,416
1897—165,422 67,858 233,280

Increase— 30,929 4,207 35,136

Total Civil Popu- lation

..... 1901—202,175 75,468 277,643
1897—170,392 71,370 241,762

Increase— 31,783 4,098 35,881

HARMSTON'S CIRCUS.

In the organisation and maintenance of a travelling circus year after year there is a great deal to be achieved, if public approval is to be altogether secured. Star artistes of the ring who attract one season may fail to gather approbation the next, and the management has to be fully alive to the needs of the hour. In order to successfully cater for the Hongkong public, Mrs. Harmston-Love arranged for and brought out direct from Europe the Sisters Fregazondas and the Jansons, whose performances had created a great furore throughout Europe. In these and many other respects, this enterprising entrepreneur has contributed to the recreative enjoyment of her patrons, who have not been slow in expressing their appreciation of her efforts.

The success of the Circus has been so continuous and so generally encouraging, that it was no small wonder to see the tent well filled, notwithstanding the discomforting elements, on the occasion of Mrs. Harmston-Love's benefit on the 22nd ult. She fully deserved it. For twelve years she has been travelling throughout the East and Far East, and at every benefit her admirers have rallied and given her a bumper. This was no exception, and the new programme, which throughout the week had been received with the utmost satisfaction by the thousands who witnessed it, was somewhat shortened to permit the introduction of several novel features. The tug-of-war which should have taken place as the result of the disqualified tie between the stokers of H.M.S. *Centurion* and the team of the Royal Garrison Artillery in the recent international contest, did not come off in consequence, it was stated, of the non-appearance of the former team. Colonel Hicks announced from the ring that the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were willing to take up the challenge thrown out by the stokers for any amount at equal weights and, at a call, the captain of the *Centurion's* stepped forward and stated they were willing to put up any sum from \$100 to \$3,000. The challenge remains open. The principal event of the evening was the contest between local amateur riders for a trophy presented by Mrs. Harmston-Love over a steeplechase course round the marquee and through the ring, at the ends of which the hurdles were erected. There were eleven competitors, and the result was as follows:—

Lieut. Lloyd, R.W.F. (on *Policeman*)... 1
Mr. P. A. Cox (on *Bobby*) 2

These also competed:—Lieut. Walwyn, Capt. Gwynne, Lieut. Johnson, Lieut. Burton, Lieut. Boyd, Mr. A. C. Macmillan, Messrs. Bishop, Lord and Eohlin.

Messrs. Hart Buck and Hector Sampson were judges, and their decision gave general satisfaction.

At a special performance on Wednesday night the 27 ult., that popular quartette,

Sisters Fregazonda, took their Benefit, and a very full tentful assembled to manifest their appreciation of these graceful and agile dancers. The whole performance was carried out with the thoroughness which marks Mr. Harmston-Love's combination of artists in the circus line. The evening's entertainment was fully enjoyed by all present.

At Harmston's Circus on Thursday night there was the usual varied entertainment, and in addition visitors had before them a riding contest for gentlemen riders. This resulted in a win for Lieut. Johnson, who succeeded in completing two rounds and a half of the arena standing on the back of a horse. Lieut. Walwyn was second with a round and three-quarters, and Mr. W. H. Gregg a good third with a round and a half. There also competed Major Sir H. W. McMahon, Lieut. Lloyd, Messrs. Crawford, Echlin, and Babington. Another contest will be held to-night, for which entries must be sent in to the Manager. On the same night a bluejacket will enter the den of the tiger Duke. A farewell matinee also comes off to-day.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 23rd February.

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN CANTON.

China New Year passed off rather tamely and the animation usually attending on such an occasion was not as visible as last year, the amount of crackers let off being less than any other year. As a rule the masters of the houses stay at home to receive guests on New Year's Day, while the employees don their best and go out to distribute cards. Eating-houses were closed for a day or two and most of the families, especially the women, kept their fast on vegetable food only, while the men went to the theatre to see the "sing-song." From a business standpoint the old year was worse; many Chinese firms on reckoning up their accounts found that they were in debt, and being unable to keep up their credit had to close. Banks were pressing for the final settlement of their accounts to the last penny, otherwise no credit would be given. Some creditors who found it hard to get their money paid resorted to the following means of exacting payment. A few days before the New Year they took with them their pillows and cotton quilts and went into the shops of their debtors to eat and sleep free of charge until the amount of the debt was paid off.

THE NEW VICEROY.

From the 15th to the 18th ult. the Consuls of the various different nationalities and the Commanders of the gunboats made official calls upon the new Viceroy Tao Mu. I also have had the honour of interviewing and conversing with him. His Excellency was very amiable and pleased with foreigners and seemed to take a delight in everything foreign. No doubt the brilliant uniforms of the different Consuls and Naval officers were quite a surprise to him and had inspired him with respect. His Excellency is of medium height, with a somewhat ruddy complexion and a thin moustache and beard. His age is 66, not 80 as reported before. When I asked His Excellency whether he would like to take a trip to Hongkong and Macao to see things, he shook his head, and told me that he never liked sea voyages. For this reason he has come to Canton by so slow a passage. He spoke appreciatively of everything foreign, with the exception of missionaries interfering in cases which do not concern them.

STEAMER DEVELOPMENTS.

A steamer-wharf is being constructed at the west of Kee Cheong Street. It is rumoured that a Japanese company is going to start a line of river steamers running between Canton and Hongkong and Macao, and somebody has been looking round Shameen for a house where-in to establish an agency.

A DEVICE AGAINST THIEVES.

In the Kung Ching Street, Fatsan, the shops are connected with each other by electric wires; so that in case of robbing, by a mere touch of the wire the bells sound the alarm, and the neighbours will appear to render their assistance to catch thieves.

CONCERNING AMAHS.

There are three different classes of maid-servants known by the name of "amah." The superior class is something like a governess. She is a confidante, a go-between, a tale-bearer, and likewise a companion to the lady of the house; the second class is that of the hair-dresser or waiting woman, who does nothing else but dress the hair of her mistress; and the third class is generally that of the menial servant, who does the low household work. Their pay varies according to their positions from two to seven dollars a month. They are either widows, spinsters, or married women; the spinsters who prefer independent single life better than the married state, go out to serve, while the married ones who are poor and can't agree with their husbands, desert their homes and prefer to earn a living for themselves. As a rule their behaviour is not so very exemplary. In most family troubles an amah is found at the bottom of it. They have what is called an Amah's Club in the city, where they meet and gossip, and discuss the misfortune of their mistresses. An amah, by name A. Sam, was employed in the family of Ho in Kong Nui Street, Canton, who was about 40 years of age. She induced her mistress to lend \$5,000 to a man Leong Pat, of the Shon Tak district, whom she represented as a great silk merchant, at ten or twelve per cent. interest per month. So she went on swindling several rich families in the same manner, paying of course heavy interest regularly for about two years until she had amassed something like thirty to forty thousand dollars. Just about the end of the past Chinese year she and her friend disappeared. It is said that they have gone to Hongkong to take passages for Singapore.

Canton, 24th February.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The anniversary birthday of George Washington was celebrated in Canton on the 22nd ult., the U.S. Consul Mr. Robert MacWade being at home. The gunboats in port dressed in bunting and saluted just at noon. The Consulate was tastefully decorated. By his open heartedness, urbanity, kind and liberal treatment of all alike, irrespective of sects, or nationalities, Mr. MacWade has gained a great popularity here. Between 12 and 1 p.m. the different Consuls, Naval officers, merchants, heads of European firms, Chinese officials, and many residents of Shameen were pouring into the Consulate in great numbers to convey their greetings and good wishes to the U.S. Consul.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 9th February.

DIPLOMACY SUCCEEDS WAR.

We are still in a state of Egyptian darkness as regards trustworthy political news, and might as well inflate ourselves with the East wind as give credence to the silly rumours that circulate in military and Chinese circles. The soldier-men profess to believe that the early spring will see them in the transports well on the way for home: when traced to its origin this little optimism seems to be derived from small talk of Count von Waldersee who, it is agreed, is pretty sick of the whole affair and finds his position anything but a bed of roses. The diplomatic folk are, as might be expected, keeping the negotiations entirely in their own hands and there is really little or nothing for the soldiers to do. Count von Waldersee's friend, affect to think that by coming to China he has lost the chance of the Chancellorship. The only determination really reached about the troops is that the Australian Naval Contingent will return home as early as possible, so as to enable the men to be present at the great Parliamentary ceremony in Melbourne. They are to be replaced by the Devons.

THE PROTECTION OF THE LEGATIONS AT PEKING.

The future permanent garrison of Peking is to consist of two hundred and fifty men for each of the major Legations, and may further include a smaller number for those of Spain, Holland, and Belgium. The composition of each force is not yet determined, but it is quite

certain that artillery will constitute a goodly part, and that never again will the Ministers be between the Devil and the deep sea, as they were last June and July. If the Chinese attack them they will now have it in their power to do inconceivable injury to the City and Palace; the mere knowledge that they can do so will of course be their greatest security. All the greater Legations are busy in extending their boundaries without reference to Chinese wishes on the subject. The British are including in their new place the whole of the Imperial Carriage Park and the grounds of the Han Lin Academy; it was from these coigns of vantage that the Chinese made their most resolute and effective attacks on our Legation. The new area is a good deal larger than the old, and will not only suffice for barracks and new Students' Quarters, but will also probably supply that long felt need of a public recreation ground. The Russians are taking in about twice their present area and their new boundary on the north will march with ours on the south. The French, Japanese and (probably) Spanish will push northwards, so as to take in large portions of the Customs Compound and that of the Su Wang Fuh; the idea is to squeeze out all Chinese holders from the ground between the Legations and make a solid block of nothing but Legation ground. The only question now is where the non-official civil foreign Peking is to go; there must always be a few foreign residents, and such things as hotels, stores, &c. I think it likely that they will find a place in the area between the Chien-Men and the American Legation. I may mention that Sir (Lude Macdonald) caused the words "Lest We Forget" to be painted in the angle of the wall where the Han Lin joins the Legation as a memorial of their hottest corner.

LI HUNG-CHANG'S HEALTH.

Little attention should be paid to the almost daily reports of Li Hung-chang's death. The old man is of course somewhat feeble, as one might expect from a man who in another fortnight will be an octogenarian; three weeks ago, moreover, he had a very bad attack of influenza which prostrated him for six days and prevented him signing the preliminary agreement, but those about him deny that he was ever in *extremis*. The old man is living in a place near the Tsungli Yamen, which, by the bye, is now closed under German seal; it is not generally known that in the early days of the capture of the City the Yamen was for two entire days in the possession of the Russians, and subsequently for three in that of the Japanese. It is amusing, if not alarming, to think of the chances this may have given to clear up doubtful points in policy of rivals.

THE PEKING TRAGEDY.

The Capital last week was shocked by being the scene of a murder and suicide on the part of two Tientsin foreign visitors. Lieut. Lyneberg of the Danish Navy and lately in Chinese service in a paroxysm of marital jealousy shot his wife dead, and then blew his own brains out. Criticism or explanation is precluded by the fact that it reflects on the dead; but for the sake of a living survivor who was included in the tragedy it must be stated that the most intimate friends of the deceased gentleman have made representations to the British military authorities exculpating the young subaltern of Bombay Cavalry from that condemnation which the censorious are ever ready to extend to a third party in matrimonial disagreements. The said subaltern was at the same time shot in two places by the maddened husband; it was feared at first that the horror would be threefold, but to the general satisfaction the youngster has made a rapid recovery and is now back in Tientsin.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AT TIENTSIN.

The Provisional Government of Tientsin City is being extended, but the military are, after the manner of their caste, excluding all civilians from the new offices, though experience has consistently shown that most awful mistakes have been made, from the soldiers' crass ignorance of Chinese ideas, in the treatment of natives. The city itself is an example. Never in the very worst days of native administration has rascality in many phases (those of squeezing by the employees) been so rampant; it is a byword among the natives, and arises in ignorance more than in anything else. On the other hand many excellent new

departures have been made, especially in the department of public works. A fine broad thoroughfare is being made by the river bank, and the useless old walls are being demolished to make wide streets, and to relieve the unspeakable congestion of the traffic. The West wall is already well down and, curiously enough, the inhabitants don't seem to think it synonymous with the end of all things. At present, German influence predominates in the councils. We also expect a forward policy in the great matter of river improvement, a subject of vital interest to the Chinese as well as to ourselves. The New Commissioner of Customs, Mr. G. Detring, is throwing himself into this question with his usual zeal, and we hope soon to see a large and comprehensive scheme undertaken. If the foreign occupation of the City only lasts long enough it will leave its mark in many departments in which the Chinese could never have been expected to move. Their vicious system of short appointments and of allowing officials to make their hay during the short sunshine quite precludes all urban improvement on a great scale.

RAILWAY AND COAL QUESTIONS.

The railway from Peking to Tong-ku is now under German administration, the only notable change so far is they have greatly increased the fares and have given nothing as an equivalent. The rolling stock is now a piteous plight, the overworked locomotives having been out of the shops for months. Strange to say the British hold and maintain the last eight miles and the terminus at Peking. The Shanhaikwan line is still in the hands of the Russians, though it is expected that it too will soon be handed over to the British or the Germans. There is still a complete break at the Peitang River and bridge-building is impossible till the spring. The Tongshan coal-pits are in a bad way and no coal is being taken out. The workings are all flooded, and the most powerful pumps can only reduce the head of water about an inch per day. Fortunately the mine up at Lin Si is in good order; and when once the line is re-opened there will be no danger of a fuel famine (though the decreased supply will of course keep up the present high prices. It is a great pity that a small siding cannot now be made up to the Western Hills, and the fine hard coal of Peking be brought to Tientsin. The former objections to this step were wholly those of obstructive officials: the line would be an extraordinary boon to the people of Peking and Tientsin, as it would indefinitely cheapen the cost of the coal at present borne by camels. Like all the new departures undertaken in this interregnum its continuation could be ensured by the Treaty.

SWATOW.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Swatow, 25th February.

NEW FIELD FOR CHINESE AGRICULTURISTS.

Foochow will supply men to cultivate the untilled but fertile land of Sarawak in future. A certain Chinaman of high standing, who is the father-in-law of Dr. Lim Boon King of Singapore, has undertaken to send men from Foochow to Sarawak. He passed through here the other day, and hearing of this, I availed myself of the opportunity to interview him. He was kind enough to impart to me all necessary information. In answer to my various enquiries he told me that he and another had entered into an agreement with the Sarawak Government to supply the latter with 2,000 men in the course of two years. These men, being all farmers, are to cultivate principally rice, and as circumstances permit other necessaries also.

It is the first time that Foochow men have departed in a body with their families from their native province and emigrated to a strange place, and in view of this I questioned my informant whether the Foochow men will find it easy to settle in Sarawak. He told me that this difficulty is easily overcome and he hoped that this new departure will prove successful. Up till now 600 men have already left Foochow for Sarawak and at future periods more are to follow.

A NEW FIRM TO PROMOTE EMIGRATION.

A new German firm has established itself here with the intention of shipping coolies to German New Guinea. The firm has now been in existence for a considerable time, but no

coolies have left here yet for the new destination.

SPORT IN FOOCHOW NEIGHBOURHOOD.

A few sportsmen, belonging to the German man-of-war *Seeadler* at present in port, went up river shooting a few days ago, and owing, I presume, to bad luck couldn't get a single bird, but not wishing to return empty-handed, they shot out of mere disgust—five tame ducks, which they brought back with them. As the tale originates from a native source, I give it with all reserve for what it is worth.

THE NEW YEAR.

Chinese New Year came and went with unusual quietness. The Chinese don't celebrate their New Year festivities with so much *eclat* and deafening cracker-firing as is the case in your colony or Canton. Luckily there were no fires here, but a conflagration took place at Chowchowfu, which caused very little damage, but a Chinaman in rushing to the fire to render assistance, got badly hurt in having a water bucket knocked against his head, which received a fearful cut.

FOOCHOW.

The *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 16th inst. contains the following items:—

All restrictions with regard to the return of the Missionaries to their various stations are now removed, and with the full consent of the Consuls and of the Chinese High Officials they will proceed up-country soon after Chinese New Year. An excellent proclamation has just been issued by the Viceroy pointing out the good work done by Missionaries and urging the Officials and people to treat them with due respect.

The news of the death of Dr. Underwood of Pagoda Anchorage came as a great shock to the residents at Foochow, as he had been amongst us only a day or two previously when he was apparently in his usual good health. The sad event took place at his residence at Mamoi on the 10th inst. from the effects of a fit of apoplexy. Dr. Underwood was only 50 years of age. He had been at Pagoda in the practice of his profession upwards of twenty years and was much liked and greatly respected by all who knew him, both at Foochow and Pagoda.

It is a long time since Foochow residents have had such a musical treat as was arranged for them on Monday last under the auspices of the F. A. M. & D. S. A visit from Mr. Alec Marsh of Hongkong was the occasion of getting up a concert. It was held in the large reading-room of the Club as being more suitable for music than the theatre. The programme would have been more varied but for the prevailing epidemic invaliding one or two other of our amateurs who would have been willing to assist, had they been able. This misfortune, however, led to our having more of Mr. Marsh's singing, of which the audience never seemed to have had enough as it was, since each of the six songs sung by him was encored. Certain it is that Mr. Marsh's rich, musical, cultivated voice and his rendering of the songs he sung on Monday evening gave unqualified pleasure to a large roomful of listeners. Miss Lay's performances both on the piano and mandolin were pleasing in the extreme and Mr. Balloch's rendering of the song "Blow, Blow, thou Winter Wind" was thrilling and most successful, calling forth loud applause and an encore.

The postponed Gymkhana took place on Thursday afternoon and was regarded as a timely relief to the dreary gloom that has been hanging over the port for nearly a month.

A curious discovery is reported from the French Mixed Court at Shanghai. On three Chinese arrested by French detectives on the *Poyang* were found papers which showed them to be members of a society whose object was to offer big shipping companies protection against the daily robberies which occur on boats on the Yangtze. A sum of 200 taels per boat was the fee asked. The society has at its head an European, whose name *L'Echo de Chine* states to be known to it. A further enquiry is to be made into the ways of this enterprising society.

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders in connection with the above company was held on Monday, the 25th ult. The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided and there were also present Messrs. D. E. Brown, A. Haupt, J. H. Lewis, R. Shewan, N. A. Siebs, J. S. Van Buren, P. Witkowski (directors), D. Gillies (Chief Manager), Thos. I. Rose (Secretary), G. Murray Bain, K. A. Chinoy, H. M. S. H. Esmail, D. Haskell, Ho Fook, H. Humphreys, S. H. Michael, Thos. Skinner, C. S. Sharp, and W. H. Wickham.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen: The report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for some days, we will, with your permission, take them as read. It affords your Directors great pleasure indeed to be able to place before you a report which may justly be considered highly satisfactory in every respect, the result of our net profit being not far short of the record half-year of the Company. This has been due in a great measure to the improved efficiency of our establishment, which has recently been augmented by the introduction of a number of new machines of the most modern type that have greatly facilitated and increased the outturn of work. At the same time it is but right to mention that a considerable portion of our plant has been occupied in the construction of new vessels, the net returns of which are not quite so favourable as with repair work, so that our percentage of profit on the gross earnings for the six months is not so large as in some previous reports. You will have observed that the amount available for appropriation is \$879,649 23, and the Board recommends that this amount be distributed as follows:—That a dividend and bonus of \$375,000, making \$30 a share, be paid to the shareholders, a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders and one of \$25,000 to the European staff; that \$202,892.03, or about 5 per cent., be written off the value of the docks, steam launches and material on hand, and the balance, \$256,757.20, carried to the new account. The amount we propose to write off is certainly a very large one, but having in view the fluctuations our business is subject to, our liability to heavy loss from typhoons, and the contingency of keen competition in the future, your directors feel it incumbent upon them to safeguard the future of the company and place it in the best position possible to compete with active opposition. Writing down our stock of material has never appeared in any former report; it has been done now, however, on the recommendation of the two experts who have checked and valued our stock in trade, and we feel confident that all shareholders who take an interest in the permanent prosperity of the company will approve of their suggestion, more particularly as the scantlings of modern ships have undergone such radical changes that sizes of material which were useful 15 to 20 years ago are now unsuitable; having a quantity of such on hand we find the difficulty of working it off increases every year. The necessity for expansion in our workshops and greater facilities for docking the larger type of vessels is being more acutely felt every day. At the present moment we have a large number of vessels booked for our No. 1 dock, with further engagements extending over the next two months, and in some cases vessels have been obliged to seek for docking accommodation at other ports. In the year 1895 negotiations were opened with the Commander-in-Chief on the China Station for the construction of another dock which would be available for the ships of H. M. Navy on terms analogous to those entered into with the Government in 1883 for the pre-emptive use of all our docks, but after considerable correspondence, on the 22nd February, 1898, Commodore Holland informed the Directors that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty had decided not to accept the offer. This the Directors much regretted, as for thirty-seven years the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company had dry-docked the vessels of the British Navy without fail or accident and the Company would have much appreciated the continued confidence of the Admiralty in this

respect. By way of giving you some idea of the manner we are capable of handling vessels of large tonnage, I would call your attention to the undocking and docking of two amongst the largest vessels in the British Navy. On Thursday, the 14th February, H.M.S. *Terrible*, 14,200 tons, was taken out of dock, and within two hours H.M.S. *Goliath*, 12,950 tons, was placed in the same dock and the shores ready for setting up. The despatch in this instance I have been informed would with difficulty be surpassed by any docking establishment in the world. However, being well aware of the absolute necessity for another dock of large dimensions to meet the wants of the many vessels of great tonnage now in course of construction for the Pacific trade, the Board of Directors then immediately resolved to proceed with the construction of another dock without any financial help, and to rely entirely on the shareholders to provide the funds that might be required, and an application was made to the Colonial Government for the land necessary. After waiting for about two years we were informed that the site selected would be given to the Company, but at a high premium, and on a lease of 75 years only; and further that the British Navy must have the pre-emptive right to the use of the Company's docks, for which, however, there would be no consideration beyond payment of the ordinary tariff rates! With regard to the lease, the term of 75 years only was considered too short and unreasonable in view of the vast amount of local capital invested in dock property, and that nearly the whole of our present land is already held from the Government on leases of 999 years. Again, as to pre-emptive rights, the Directors had no option but to reluctantly object, as on many occasions this prerogative would necessarily upset the Company's permanent arrangements for the regular docking of mail steamers on the due dates, and lead to much friction with regular constituents. Of course the Dock Company would always use every endeavour to receive H.M. ships into any of their docks on the shortest notice, and to strain their resources in that direction in every way consistent with their public obligations. I may say that the negotiations are still pending, and we are hopeful that the Dock Company may yet be put in possession of the land required on terms and conditions that will be equitable and satisfactory. Your Directors have been devoting their careful attention to the introduction of electric motive power into our workshops so as to be thoroughly in step with the most approved modern practice. Each year more and more machinery is thrown into the scrap heap to make room for new and improved types, but still in many workshops, our own among them, antiquated and unprofitable methods of transmitting power are left in service. Even the most modern methods of workshop production, in which tools are worked up to the power limit, are sometimes seen to be worked side by side with belted transmission of power, which makes it quite impossible to realise fully the value of the new system by not giving the operator the utmost freedom of speed control of machine and tool. The electric motor-drives provide suitable and quickly adjusted speed ranges under all of the ordinary starting loads of workshop appliances. This has in England and America increased from 25 to 50 per cent. compared with the old and fixed speed conditions with belts and gears, and being convinced of the utility and advantages of electric drives, your Directors decided to have the system introduced as a motive power for the various machines in the new workshops being erected at Kowloon, besides as an illuminant throughout the yard and shops. An electric lighting plant has already been installed at the Cosmopolitan Dock. The Aberdeen Docks have been well employed during the six months and have helped very much to relieve the pressure of docking work from the two other establishments. The returns from this establishment for the six months, I am pleased to say, are most satisfactory. On the 31st December an extraordinary general meeting was held for the purpose of passing certain resolutions to alter the Articles of Association for the sub-division of the existing shares in the capital; namely, that the 12,500 fully paid up shares of \$125 each be sub-divided into 31,250 fully paid up shares of

\$50 each, and these resolutions were duly confirmed at a subsequent meeting held on the 21st day of January last. The object in passing the resolutions, as has already been explained to you, is to eventually increase the capital to \$2,500,000 in 50,000 shares of \$50 each, and we trust the alteration will be fully approved and appreciated by the shareholders. I take this opportunity of expressing our high estimation of the zeal and attention given by the staff to the interests of the Company. As you are all aware there is always a great deal of night work necessary at the docks in order to give as little detention as possible to ships when under repair, and although night work under any circumstances is most tiring and laborious, more particularly in this climate, yet the best services of our staff in this respect are at all times given willingly and ungrudgingly. I have also pleasure in informing you that our returns for January and February are very satisfactory and our prospects for the current six months are most encouraging. Before closing these remarks, gentlemen, I regret to have to intimate to you that our worthy chief manager has informed the directors of his desire to retire in June next, and to relinquish the unique position which he has so long occupied as the controlling head of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. Mr. Gillies' connection with the Company dates from 1864, and during that long period he has devoted his life and energies to the Company's service, and with what conspicuous success the present position of the Company abundantly testifies. I am sure everyone present will unite in wishing Mr. Gillies health and happiness in the Old Country where, while taking his well-earned repose, we may be sure he will still watch with keen interest the development of the Company to whose interests he has so long given his undivided care. (Applause.) Before proposing the adoption of the report and passing the statement of accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions you may desire to ask.

There being no questions the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS seconded. He said:—Before seconding the adoption of the report and accounts, I should like to thank the Directors for having given practical effect to a suggestion I made at a meeting of this Company just one year ago with regard to issuing bonus scrip to shareholders. I think the thanks of the shareholders are also due to the Directors and the staff for another magnificent report. The policy of writing down assets must commend itself to shareholders, but I must confess, for my part, I would prefer to see anything written down rather than stock of material on hand. If there is any loss or depreciation under that heading it should surely come under profit and loss account and be deducted from earnings. If there is no loss, writing down stock below its cost price might open the door to leakage or lead to undercharging for work done by the Company. However, if the Directors are satisfied, I am sure the shareholders, who have every confidence in the Directors, will be also. I think every shareholder will be sorry to hear that nothing has been done so far in the matter of the new dock which is so badly wanted. I gather from your remarks, Mr. Chairman, that the delay is in no way due to the Directors, who have worked hard to obtain the necessary site, but to the extravagant demands made on behalf of the British Navy. The attitude of the authorities in this matter can only give rise to wonder and dismay, for no one should expect to get anything for nothing in mercantile transactions, as the authorities in this case seem to do, and, in my opinion in taking up a position calculated to retard the necessary expansion of the docking facilities of this port and thus drive away shipping, they are accepting a grave responsibility and one which might have a most serious effect on the commercial prosperity of this colony. I don't think I can say any more than you did, Mr. Chairman, about Mr. Gillies. I am sure every shareholder will be sorry to hear he is leaving us and we all wish him God-speed. With these few remarks, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. MURRAY BAIN, seconded by Mr. T. SKINNER, Messrs. J. S. Van Buren and J. H. Lewis were re-elected directors.

Mr. WICKHAM proposed the confirmation of the appointments of Messrs. Paul Witkowski, R. Shewan, and D. E. Brown as directors.

Mr. D. HASKELL seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Ho Fook proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and E. Henderson as auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. C. S. SHARP seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready on application after 10 a.m. to-morrow. I am much obliged to you for your attendance.

HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the seventeenth ordinary general meeting to be held at the office of the General Managers on Saturday, 9th March, at 12 o'clock noon:—

Annexed we have the pleasure to lay before shareholders the annual statement of accounts made up to the 31st December, 1900.

The net profit, including the balance brought forward from last year, amounts to \$132,514.65 which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

To place to Reserve Fund \$19,350.00
To pay a dividend of 2½ per cent. 100,000.00
To carry forward to next year's account 12,709.65

Business in rope suffered during the year from the abnormally high price of Manila hemp, but nevertheless our sales show an increase, and the result, though not so good as that of last year, is still satisfactory.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, Messrs. Gillies, Lewis, Raymond and Shewan retire, but offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. T. Arnold and F. Henderson, who are recommended for re-election.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1901.

The following are the profit and loss account and balance sheet of the above Company:—

Donation to Indian Famine Fund	\$ 500.00
Exchange	14.10
Auditors' fee	400.00
Consulting Committee's fee	4,000.00
Depreciation for 1900 written off	13,402.04
Balance	132,514.65

\$150,830.79

Balance brought forward from 1899	\$ 11,054.30
Interest and profit on sale of investments	7,205.79
Balance of working account	132,577.70

\$150,830.79

LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital 10,000 shares at \$50 paid up	500,000.00
Reserve fund	195.00
Due to General Managers	6,763.81
Sundry creditors	12,909.92
Balance of profit and loss	132,514.65

\$65,383.38

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cost of land factory, machinery, &c., as per last account	160,000.00
Expenditure on new extension to 31st December, 1900	43,402.04

\$203,402.04

Less depreciation 13,402.04

Rope, &c., &c. in godown, valued at	190,000.00
Rope on consignment, valued at	104,278.29
Fire insurance premia, account 1901	141,225.00
Sundry debtors	1,421.48
Cash at factory	87,278.83
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	25.00

123,754.78

\$652,383.33

A telegram to Headquarters at Manila, dated Washington, 16th February, notes the promotion to the rank of Major-General in the U.S. Regular Army of Generals Arthur MacArthur and S. B. M. Young.

TYPHOON FUND.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge receipt of the following contributions to the above Fund:—

Already acknowledged	\$ 22,232.05
Great Northern Telegraph Co.	100
Nippon Yusen Kaisha	100
H.M.S. Argonaut	32.50
J. M. Beattie	25
Lodge, Naval & Military	25
Wardroom H.M.S. Undaunted	20
Comr. Blackburn	10
J. Black	10
Owen Ordish	10
Commodore F. Powell	10
F. N. Motton	10
M. M. Papadia & Co.	11
J. R. M. Smith	10
H. A. Esmail & Co.	10
R. S. Woonwalla & Co.	10
J. Xavier	5
H. R. Wells	5
W. J. Titcher	5
T. A. Ahlmann	5
S. Arjun	5
Wong Lemi	50
Yam Kwai Un	50

\$ 22,651.55

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 22nd February.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE YAUMATI MURDER CASE.

The hearing of the Yaumati murder case was resumed. Ho Su and Wong Fung Chan are the men charged, the victim being Leung Hin, a marine store dealer at Yaumati.

The hearing had not concluded when the Court rose.

Saturday, 23rd February.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE HEARING OF THE YAUMATI MURDER CASE.

The hearing of the Yaumati murder case was continued. The accused were two men named Ho Su and Wong Fung Chan, their victim being a Yaumati marine store dealer named Leung Hin. Wong Fung Chan was a foki in the employ of the deceased man and Ho Su was a friend of Wong Fung Chan, and being out of work was in the habit of taking his meals with him. It was alleged by the prosecution that on the night of the 9th January the prisoners induced the deceased to accompany them to a lonely part of the Reclamation and that there they attacked him with a chopper and left him for dead. He, however, managed to stagger part of the way home and made a statement to the effect that one of the prisoners held him while the other struck him with a chopper. It was alleged that the prisoners wished to possess themselves of a key which the deceased man was known to have upon him in order that they might obtain access to the shop safe and get hold of some money.

The evidence being concluded Messrs. Robinson and Slade addressed the jury on behalf of the prisoners, and the Attorney-General having replied, the Chief Justice summed up.

It was about half-past six when the jury retired to consider their verdict. Mr. John Burgess was the foreman, the other members of the jury being Messrs. J. A. Ross, E. Arnold, O. Wegener, W. E. Pucher, S. Weinberg, and R. W. Dale.

The jury were only absent a few minutes. In reply to the Clerk the Foreman said the jury

were unanimously of opinion that both the prisoners were guilty.

His Lordship then asked the prisoners if they had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon them.

The first prisoner (Ho Su) said—I have not done it. Ah Chau is the man who chopped him. Ah Chau seized hold of him and pressed him down and chopped him. I had no quarrel with the master. Why should I cut him? It was no good to me. I never had any quarrel with him. I had no fight with him. If I had wanted his money even if I had cut him to death I would not have been able to get hold of his money. I did not cut him. It was Ah Chau who cut him. I was standing at the door of the Tin Heung Shop when Ah Chau passed with the master. Ah Chau called out to me. He asked me why I was standing there. I said I was standing there to see people sell things. He asked me to take a walk with him, so I followed him. I believe a distance of 12 feet or so. I followed him as far as the Reclamation. I told him it was dark there and asked him what was the good of walking there. Then I heard someone call out "Save life." They called a few times, and on walking on I saw Ah Chau seize hold of the master and put his foot on him and chop him. Then I walked along and I saw someone coming to the place from a boat. While I was walking Ah Chau was still there. It was no good for me to kill that man. That is all I have got to say. I have not done it.

The second prisoner (Wong Fung Chan) said—Ho Su was out of employment, and he was living with me in the shop taking his rice. Leung Hin told me to turn him out of the shop and to tell him to go and get some work to do. I told him, but he would not leave the shop. None of the people in the shop were on talking terms with him. On the morning of the 9th January I went into the kitchen to wash my face and I saw Leung Hin there. He told me that the father of Ho Su had nothing whatever to do with the business of the shop and that I had better tell him to go and get some work and that after dinner I had better turn him out. As Ho Su was leaving the shop I told him he must not return. He was very angry and walked away. I went out before two o'clock and a boatman told me he had some goods for sale and asked me to tell my master. I told the boatman he had better talk with Leung Hin about the goods. The boatman replied that he had no time. He said he was going away with his boat but would be back about eight o'clock and would anchor off the Reclamation. He asked me to bring my master to the boat to look at the goods. So I told Leung Hin about them and asked him to come and look at the goods in the boat. At nine o'clock I went out. Then Leung Hin came out and asked me to take him to look at the goods. So I and Leung Hin went together. When we got as far as the Tin Heung Shop I saw Ho Su, who followed us to the Reclamation. Leung Hin stopped for something and I went forward and asked the boatman to wait for him. Then I heard Leung Hin call out "Save life!" I went towards him and found him sitting on the ground. I asked him to get up and he said Ho Su had cut him. I helped him up and helped him to walk. He made a statement to me about Ho Su taking his rice in the shop and telling somebody to turn him out. We walked together a distance of four or five shops and then Leung Hin said he would walk alone. So I let him walk alone. I had some blood on my jacket and trousers through helping him, and I went to the shop to wash my clothing, after which I intended going to the Police Station to make a report, but when I was going out I was told to wait a short time. I had no quarrel with the master or ill-feeling towards him. I attended to my work during the day time. It was Ho Su who cut him. He had a quarrel with him and had ill-feeling towards him. There was no need for me to think of my master's money. I had my wages. If I had really committed the crime I would have run away by this time of course. I have not done it. Therefore I went back to the shop. The witn-esses said something about my wishing to get hold of the money, but Leung Hin himself never said anything about the money in the safe. If a man had been left in the shop he probably might have seen the

money. Really I have not done this. That is all I have got to say.

The Chief Justice, assuming the black cap, said—Ho Su and Wong Fung Chau, you have been found guilty on very clear evidence of the offence with which you are charged. For an offence of this kind there is only one sentence that I can pass. The sentence of the Court upon each of you is that you be taken to the place from whence you came and thence to the place of execution, and then you be there hanged by the neck until you be dead, and that your body be buried in such place as His Excellency the Governor shall order. And may the Lord have mercy on your souls!

The prisoners, who heard their doom with seeming indifference, were then led away.

Monday, 25th February.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LUK LAI CHO V. T. H. KINGSLEY.

In this case the plaintiff is a dealer in cotton yarns residing and carrying on business at No. 32, Bonham Strand East, in co-partnership with So Shau Ming and others. The defendant is a mechanical engineer and generally resides in Shanghai, and at the time of the writ was temporarily resident in Hongkong. The plaintiff prayed that the defendant might be ordered to specifically perform a contract for the sale by him to the plaintiff of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39 for the sum of \$325,000 on terms agreed upon, and to execute a proper deed of conveyance of the same to the plaintiff upon payment of the purchase money agreed upon.

The plaintiff in his petition said the defendant was the registered owner of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39. Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald, who were consulting engineers and surveyors carrying on business in Hongkong, were at the time of the happening of the events in question the agents in Hongkong of the defendant, and were authorised by him to obtain offers for the purchase and sale of the lot. The plaintiff on or about the 13th October, through Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald, offered to purchase the lot from the defendant for \$325,000, less brokerage to the purchaser, and less an amount paid by the Government of the colony to the defendant by way of compensation or refund for a portion of the lot then lately resumed by the Government. The plaintiff further proposed to pay 10 per cent. of the purchase money on acceptance of his offer and the balance in six months. Messrs. Kinghorn and Macdonald wired the offer to the defendant, who was then in Shanghai, as follows:—

"We can sell 325 payable 10 per cent. cash; remainder make the time six months. What commission will be allowed?" To this message the defendant, on the 20th Oct., replied as follows:—"Cannot accept less than 325 net cash." Upon receipt of this message Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald wrote, on the 20th October, to the plaintiff as follows:—"We are now in a position to accept your offer definitely for the purchase of Kowloon Marine lot No. 39 for the sum of \$325,000 net and will not enter into further negotiations with anyone. Terms of payment to be 10 per cent. and the remainder six months from date." On the same day Kinghorn wired the defendant as follows:—"I have sold to-day. I have arranged for payment within the time mentioned." To this message the defendant on the same day replied as follows:—"I confirm sale of Yaumati lot only if terms are in accordance with my telegram 20th October. Payment in full to myself. Telegraph me whether documents are all in order and payment in full can be made. See Deacon & Hastings." On Monday, the 22nd October, the plaintiff tendered to Kinghorn & Macdonald the sum of \$32,500, being 10 per cent. of the purchase money, but they refused to receive the same and to sign any formal contract for the purchase and sale of the property, and the defendant personally on his arrival in the colony confirmed such refusal and repudiated the contract

entered into by his agents for the sale of the lot in question. The plaintiff had paid into the Bank of China and Japan, Limited, on deposit at interest the said sum of \$32,500.

In his answer the defendant said that upon the failure of the negotiations referred to in the petition by reason of the plaintiff not acceding to the defendant's terms for the sale of the property, the defendant sold it to the China Commercial Company, Limited, for the price of \$325,000, net, executing an assignment thereof to the said company on the 5th November, 1900. The defendant had not authorised Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald to make such a contract as the one in question upon the terms set forth, and if Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald had made such a contract they did so by mistake and the defendant was not bound thereby. The defendant had not given Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald any other authority than to obtain offers for the purchase of the said property.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon & Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) for the defence.

Mr. Francis said this was a claim for specific performance of a contract dated the 19th October last for the sale of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39. The writ was issued on the 22nd October. The pleadings consisted of petition, answer, replication, and rejoinder, and his Lordship had a titled issues in Chambers arising out of these pleadings. The plaintiff was a trader resident in Hongkong, and the defendant was manager of a Chinese engineering and mining company whose headquarters were at Tientsin. He was habitually resident in the North—at Tientsin, he believed. He was also the registered owner of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39. That property was situated at Yaumati. It was not built on in the ordinary sense of the word. At the time of the contract in question the land was in the occupation of the Mitsui Yusen Kaisha and the Hongkong and Canton Steamboat Company and certain other tenants who were storing coal on it, and the last of these tenures expired on the 31st December last. There was no Crown lease in existence. The land was held by an ordinary agreement of sale—that was an agreement between the purchaser and the Crown that on complying with certain conditions set out in the agreement of sale the Crown would grant the lease and the purchaser would take the rents. Messrs. Leigh & Orange were the purchasers from the Crown. They assigned to Chau Yen Mau, a Chinaman not resident in Hongkong, and Chan Yen Mau assigned to the defendant. There were no encumbrances on the property. A portion of the property had been since the making of the agreement resumed by the Government, compensation being paid to the lessee or future lessee. The defendant had agents here, Messrs. Kinghorn & Macdonald, who were engineers and who had general instructions from the defendant to get offers for the sale of this property. Mr. Francis proceeded to deal with the negotiations entered into by the plaintiff for the purchase of the land. Continuing, he said the issues which arose on the face of the pleadings were, to put them in the broadest possible form, two. The first question was—Was there any contract for the sale of this Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39 between the plaintiff and the defendant? If there was no contract there was an end to the case. If there was a contract the further question arose, there being admittedly a breach of the contract, if there was a contract, what remedy would the Court give for a breach of that contract. To put it shortly, the case of the defendant, as to the question of contract or no contract, was that the agent had made a mistake. He (Mr. Francis) contended that if there was a mistake it was entirely the fault of the defendant himself in furnishing ambiguous instructions to his agents, and that on the broad general principles of the law of equity a principal was not allowed to repudiate a contract entered into by his agent on his behalf, although in fact mistakenly entered into, if the mistake had originated in ambiguous or incomplete instructions on the part of the principal to the agent. Mr. Francis proceeded to argue at some length on this and the other points raised by the issues.

Mr. Sharp followed with his side of the case and had not concluded when the Court rose.

Tuesday, 26th February.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LUK LAI CHO V. T. H. KINGSLEY.

In this case the plaintiff is a dealer in cotton yarns residing and carrying on business at No. 32, Bonham Strand East, in co-partnership with So Shau Ming and others. The defendant is a mechanical engineer and generally resides in Shanghai, and at the time of the writ was temporarily resident in Hongkong. The plaintiff prayed that the defendant might be ordered to specifically perform a contract for the sale by him to the plaintiff of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39 for the sum of \$325,000 on terms agreed upon, and to execute a proper deed of conveyance of the same to the plaintiff upon payment of the purchase money agreed upon.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon & Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) for the defence.

Mr. Sharp, continuing his address, submitted that the instructions given by Mr. Kingsley to his agents were as explicit as they well could be. Had he telegraphed at very much greater length or at the length of an ordinary letter on the subject, his telegram would have contained so much reiteration on each of the points raised that the most careless reader would not have mistaken his meaning, but it was not of the nature of a telegram that that which was to be expressed should be expressed with a verbosity usual in a letter or a legal document. After finding out their blunder in regard to their instructions from Shanghai, the agents did not say for a moment that they thought Mr. Kingsley accepted the time proposal. They said that they did not notice in their haste and anxiety to conclude the matter that Mr. Kingsley had refused it. Mr. Kinghorn thought the telegram silent upon the point that payment should be deferred. He had not suggested from the beginning that the telegram gave him authority, but that the only point dealt with was as to the commission and the price. No doubt if the agent had given a memorandum in accordance with the terms mentioned in Mr. Kingsley's telegram there would have been nothing said about it, though technically he would not have been entitled to do so.

The case was not concluded when the Court rose for the day.

Wednesday, 27th February.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR JOHN CARRINGTON, C.M.G. (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LUK LAI CHO V. T. H. KINGSLEY.

In this case the plaintiff is a dealer in cotton yarns residing and carrying on business at No. 32, Bonham Strand East, in co-partnership with So Shau Ming and others. The defendant is a mechanical engineer and generally resides in Shanghai, and at the time of the writ was temporarily resident in Hongkong. The plaintiff prayed that the defendant might be ordered to specifically perform a contract for the sale by him to the plaintiff of Kowloon Marine Lot No. 39, for the sum of \$325,000 on terms agreed upon, and to execute a proper deed of conveyance of the same to the plaintiff upon payment of the purchase money agreed upon.

Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. (instructed by Messrs. Deacon & Hastings) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. Sharp (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) for the defence.

Mr. Sharp resumed his reference to the authorities in support of his contentions. He added that no contract binding upon them had been entered into at all. The mistake with regard to which they were arguing before his Lordship was such a mistake as was to be found in works upon the subject of agency rather than in works upon the subject of specific performance. The mistake, he alleged, was a mistake of the agent himself as to his power, as to his authority, which mistake, if established, would go this far—that there would be no contract at all.

Mr. Francis replied, and His Lordship reserved judgment.

THE NERVEGNA ARMS CASE.

Mr. Hazeland on Monday gave his deferred decision in the case of U. Nervegna, merchant, Queen's Road Central, who was prosecuted by Captain Superintendent May for the unlawful possession of 65 cases of revolvers without a license. Mr. Bowley represented the Crown and Mr. Gedge the defendant. Mr. Hazeland said:—

The defendant was summoned before me on the 9th February last under "The Arms and Ammunition Ordinance, 1900," for that he unlawfully (a) did neglect to register at the office of the Captain Superintendent of Police the godown in which he stored arms, to wit 30 cases of revolvers on the 18th July, 1900, and 35 cases of revolvers on the 7th day of August, 1900; (b) did furnish an incorrect return of arms remaining in his possession on the 31st July, 1900, and (c) did have in his possession 65 cases of revolvers without a license from the Captain Superintendent of Police.

On the summons being called on the Crown Solicitor on behalf of the prosecution withdrew the 1st and 2nd charges against the defendant and elected to proceed on the third charge alone. The two cases of revolvers, the subject matter of the charge, arrived by the *Sado Maru* and *Kawachi Maru* on the 17th July and 6th August, 1900, respectively. These were landed and stored by the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company. It was proved in evidence that the Godown Company do not issue godown warrants until they have received the bills of lading for the goods. These goods remained in the godown until they were seized by the police on 30th January last under a warrant. The two bills of lading and two drafts drawn by the vendor of the arms were put in. They were received by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation from the bank of Gallarate. The bills of lading were sent by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to the Godown Company and in exchange received two godown warrants. These are dated the 6th and 7th days of September, 1900, respectively. They are both in similar terms, and commence as follows: "Received on storage from Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on account of Messrs. U. Nervegna & Co., and held to the order of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation." These two godown warrants have been in the possession of the Bank ever since. The two drafts were accepted by Nervegna & Co., but on being presented for payment were dishonoured. Both drafts are still unpaid. The defendant is summoned under Section 5 of the Ordinance, which is as follows: "No person who has not a license from the Captain Superintendent of Police for the purpose shall either carry any arms or ammunition or have any arms or ammunition in his possession in this colony." In the interpretation section there is the following definition of the word *possession*: "Arms or ammunition on the body of or in the custody or under the control of any person shall be deemed to be in his possession." The point for my decision is, What is the construction to be placed on the word *possession* in Section 5 of the Ordinance? The true test in my opinion is whether the defendant ever had that right to possession so that he could have maintained an action in trover against a person who had wrongfully converted these arms to his own use either actually or constructively. I am of opinion that he could not have done so. In order to maintain this class of action a plaintiff must have the right to present possession. A vendor's lien for his unpaid purchase money will deprive him of the right to possession. The leading case on the subject is *Bloxham v. Sanders* 1825 4 B. C. 941. Bayley J. in the course of his judgment says:—Where goods are sold and nothing is said as to the time of payment and everything the seller has to do with them is complete, the property vests in the buyer so as to subject him to the risk of any accident which may happen to the goods and the seller is liable to deliver whenever they are demanded upon payment of the price, but the buyer has no right to have possession of the goods till he pays the price. The vendor's right in respect of the price is not a mere lien which he will forfeit if he parts with the possession, but grows out of his original ownership and dominion and payment or a tender of the price is a condition precedent on the buyer's part, and until he

makes such payment or tender he has no right to the possession.

A letter was put in dated 19th September last and signed "U. Nervegna & Co." enclosing a list showing the quantity of arms they had in the place where they were stored and to whom they were sold. The list evidently contains the arms the subject matter of this charge.

It was also proved in evidence that the rent for the storage of the said arms was paid by the defendant. I am of opinion that neither of the circumstances above mentioned can affect or alter the position of the defendant with regard to these arms.

From the time the arms were landed until the Godown warrants were issued the said arms were in the custody of the godown Company for and on behalf of the owners of the two steamers in which these arms arrived. From the dates of the issue of the two godown warrants the arms have been under the control of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation as bailees for and on behalf of the unpaid vendor of the arms. Applying either the common law definition or the statutory definition under the Ordinance I am of opinion that the possession of these arms was never in the defendant. I therefore order this summons to be dismissed.

His Worship postponed making an order for the return of the arms.

HONGKONG RACE MEETING.

FIRST DAY, TUESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY.

Stewards.—His Excellency Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G., His Excellency Vice-Admiral Sir Edward H. Seymour, K.C.B.; His Excellency Major-General W. J. Gascoigne, C.M.G.; Commodore Francis Powell, R.N., C.B.; Colonel The O'Gorman, C.S.O.; Major Kettlewell, 22nd B.I.; A. Babington, Esq.; the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.; D. Gillies, Esq.; The Hon. R. M. Gray; M. Grote, Esq.; Sir Thomas Jackson, Kt.; the Hon. J. J. Keswick; J. H. Lewis, Esq.; the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.; and E. W. Rutter, Esq.

Clerks of the Scale.—J. M. Lewis, Esq., and E. W. Rutter, Esq.

Judge.—The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G.

Assistant Judge.—The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.

Starter.—M. Grote, Esq.

2nd Starter.—Lieut. Luttrell, R.N.

Handicapper.—Colonel The O'Gorman, C.S.O.

Hon. Treasurer.—J. C. Peter, Esq.

Clerk of the Course.—T. F. Hough, Esq.

The annual race meeting promoted by the Hongkong Jockey Club opened on Tuesday at Happy Valley in beautiful weather. As in previous years the vicinity of the Race Course was all astir. The approaches were crowded with stalls on which various kinds of edibles appreciated by the Chinese were for sale, and several enterprising showmen had also pitched their tents by the roadside, endeavouring to win a few cents from passers-by by the display of canvasses on which more or less extraordinary designs were to be seen. No gambling was, however, allowed outside the course, and in consequence the number of Chinese visitors was considerably less than it used to be. At one time the centre of the field used to be one seething mass of Celestials. Now but a thin fringe lined the ring, but it was noticeable that Europeans were much more in evidence than formerly. The arrangements on the ground were much the same as usual. A row of mat-shed booths had been erected just outside the entrance to the grounds, and several somewhat similar structures had been erected within, all being gay with flags, etc. H.E. Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., and the Hon. Captain Trefusis were present, but there was no Governor's party, and we understand that His Excellency does not propose to attend the races at all this year.

The Wong-nei-chong Stakes was the first event. Baluchi was the favourite, and in the early part of the race he seemed to justify the reputation he had secured. He subsequently fell back, giving place to Ace of Hearts, and as the winning post was reached got hopelessly behind; Mr. G. H. Potts's Moriturus, which had run well throughout, coming in first, last year's winner (Esperance) being third. The time was 1:16½ for five furlongs, the distance having been lengthened from half-a-mile. There was a good

entry (21) for the Victoria Stakes, but only four ran. Mr. "John Peel's" Set and Mr. "Derick's" Sandstorm were the favourites. The former won, the time being 2:07½, against 2:19½ achieved by Sandstorm last year. In the Maiden Stakes walters ran for the first time for many years. A capital race was witnessed, but at the finish Sir Horace McMahon's Kismet won easily. The time was 1:25.3/5 against 1:37½. For the Valley Stakes 22 had entered, but only six started, this being the smallest field known for years in this event. The start was delayed owing to the stubbornness of Mr. Bromox's Confederation, which was ultimately left at the post. Mr. J. H. Lewis's Innocent was favourite, but it did not show up until towards the finish, when it won easily, making good time, 1 min. 26 3/5 secs., against 1 min. 42 1/5 secs. The Foochow Cup was won by Captain Richards's Hermit, whose time was exactly a minute longer than the time of the previous race, being 2 mins. 26 3/5. Three new owners competed in this event—Captain Bland, Major Dobell, and Captain Richards. An unusually small field turned up for the Derby—only six out of 22 entries: Mr. David Gillies's Loyalist was a hot favourite, whilst Mr. "Darius's" Glory had also a good number of backers. Though both Loyalist and Glory ran well, it was easily to be seen when some distance from home that neither had much chance. Sir Horace McMahon's Kismet had not much difficulty in carrying off the prize, Rheingold being second, Glory third, and Loyalist fourth. The time was 2:55 3/5. There were 21 entries for the Lusitano Cup, but only five started. Forest King was a good favourite, New Rose being second favourite. The former horse led the field all the way round, and justified popular predictions by winning hands down. Of a field of five for the Compradores' Cup, Croxton, leaving from the start, got ahead until the nearest horse, Mentor, was fully twelve lengths behind. The race looked a sure thing for Croxton, and the spectators were staggered when, on passing the Black Rock, he suddenly lost his stride, and finished absolutely last. Seven started for the Hongkong Club Cup, and it was generally considered an open race. This proved to be quite correct, for it was only at the Distance Post that Rose de France finally took the lead from Bulbul, winning by half a length only. The biggest field of the day was seen in the number of starters for the Encouragement Stakes, thirteen lining up. Mentor was a strong favourite, and with Johnson up made a capital bid for victory. In reality the race was between Dingo and Mentor, and the former finally won at the Distance Post by half a length.

The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers, under Bandmaster J. H. Moir, was in attendance, and gave the following programme:—

March..... "Belle of New York" Kerker.
Overture... "Yeomen of the Guard"..... Sullivan.
Selection... "San Toy"..... Jones.
Valse..... "Zenda"..... Witmark.
Polka..... "Royal Princes"..... Klusmann.
Valse..... "Weiner Mad'n"..... Ziehrer.
Selection... "A Runaway Girl"..... Caryll.
Song..... "Lost Chord"..... Sullivan.
Valse..... "L'Etoile Polaire"..... Waldteufel.

The following are the particulars of the different events:—

The WONG-NEI-CHONG STAKES; A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$150 added; second to receive \$50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners allowed 8 lbs; subscription griffins of any previous year; non-winners allowed 7 lbs; griffins allowed 5 lbs. Five furlongs.

Mr. G. H. Potts' Moriturus, 11st 4lb	...
(Mr. W. W. Cox)	1
Mr. Hart Buck's Esperance, 10st 6lb	...
(Mr. Crawford)	2
Mr. Mansfield's Ace of Hearts, 11st 1lb	...
(Mr. Walwyn)	3
Mr. John Peel's Baluchi, 11st 1lb	...
(Mr. Gresson)	0
Mr. Kingston's Polka, 11st 2lb (Mr. Brutton)	0
Capt. H. M. Richards' Hermit, 10st 8lb	...
(Mr. Johnson)	0
Mr. Dryasdust's Titbits, 10st 9lb	...
(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. Derick's Tube Rose, 11st 4lb	...
(Mr. Cumming)	0
Mr. David's Tarantula, 11st 1lb (Mr. Moller)	0
Mr. Nauticus' Sunshine, 11st 0lb (Mr. Lloyd)	0

The entries numbered 19, of whom ten started. The horses got off at the first attempt, though the start was not a particularly good one. Ace of Hearts at once took the lead, followed by Moriturus and Tube Rose. At the Black Rock Ace of Hearts and Moriturus led by three lengths, followed by Tube Rose and Baluchi. Coming round by the Village Baluchi took third place, Ace of Hearts and Moriturus being five lengths ahead. The same order was maintained when the straight was entered. Moriturus subsequently took the lead, being challenged by Esperance, Ace of Hearts coming up well. Moriturus won by a neck, half a length separating the second from the third. Time, 1/16.

The "VICTORIA" STAKES: Winner to receive \$1,000; second \$200; third \$50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$10. One mile.

Mr. John Peel's Set, 11st 7lbs (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. G. H. Potts' Desert King, 10st 13lb (Mr. W. W. Cox) 2
Mr. Derick's Sandstorm 11st 1lb (Mr. Cumming) 3
Mr. Marshall's Hope, 10st 12lb (Mr. Crawford) 0

Of the 21 horse entered only four started. The horses got away together at the first attempt. On their drawing out the order was Hope, Sandstorm, Set, and Desert King. The same order was maintained at the Bridge, Hope having by this time increased its lead to two lengths. There was no change going round the Bend, but coming up Set took second place. Hope and Sandstorm being close together. Coming down to the Village Set got ahead, Desert King taking second place and Hope third. At the Distance Post Desert King challenged Set. A tough struggle ensued. Set ultimately winning by a length and a half. Four lengths divided the second and third. Time, 2/07.

The MAIDEN STAKES; winner to receive \$500; second \$100; third \$50; for walers subscribed for by members as Derby griffins; subscription waler griffins eligible; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$10. Three quarters of a mile.

Sir Horace McMahon's Kismet, 10st 4lbs (Mr. Johnson) 1
Mr. Derick's Farewell, 10st 7lbs (Mr. Cumming) 2
Mr. Hammonia's Donner, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Gresson) 3
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Haphazard, 11st 2lbs (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Mr. Buxey's Imperial, 11st 4lb (Mr. P. A. Cox) 0
Mr. Hart Buck's Belvoir, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Hart Buck) 0
Mr. Buxey's Souvenir Rose, 10st 13lbs (Mr. W. W. Cox) 0
* Capt. O. S. Flower's Battle-Axe, 10st 9lbs (Mr. Lloyd) 0
Mr. David's Unionist, 10st 13lbs (Mr. Moller) 0
Mr. Hammonia's Blitz, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Brutton) 0
Mr. David's Colonist, 10st 10lbs (Mr. May) 0
* 2lbs overweight.

Eleven ran out of 18 entries. After several unsuccessful attempts to start, the horses got away, Kismet and Haphazard leading. The third at the Black Rock was Kismet, Haphazard, Unionist, Blitz, and Donner. Coming round by the Village Donner took third place, Haphazard following behind and Kismet and Unionist taking first and second places. Kismet led right down the straight, being ten lengths ahead. Farewell had come up by this time, being second, and Donner third. This was the order when the winning post was reached, Kismet being six lengths ahead. Time, 1/25 3/5.

The VALLEY STAKES; a sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$200 added; winners to receive 70 per cent; second 20 per cent; third 10 per cent; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; weight for inches as per scale. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. J. H. Lewis' Innocent, 11st 5lbs (Mr. Johnson) 1
Mr. Hammonia's Baron, 10st 13lbs (Mr. P. A. Cox) 2
Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Hart Buck) 3
Mr. John Peel's Ileene, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Gresson) 0

Mr. Bromox's Confederation, 11st 2lbs (Mr. Ford) 0
Mr. H. Hill's Bull's Eye, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Walwyn) 0

There was an unusually small number of runners for this race, which generally brings out a good field. Only six out of 22 entries started. Some trouble was experienced in getting off, Confederation being inclined to be awkward. At first Baron led, with Croxton second and Innocent third, but Croxton soon forged ahead. Confederation was left at the post. At the Black Rock the order was Croxton, Ileene, Baron, and Bulls-eye, Innocent being a long way behind. At the Village Croxton and Baron were almost abreast, Ileene being third about five lengths behind. On coming into the straight Innocent challenged the leaders, and gaining on them passed them at the Distance Post, winning by two lengths from the Baron, Croxton being three lengths behind the latter. Time, 1/26 1/4.

The FOCHOH CUP; value \$250; presented by the Foochow Community; second to receive \$50; for China ponies that have never won a race; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$5. From the two-mile post once round and in.

Capt. H. M. Richard's Hermit, 10st 9lbs (Mr. Walwyn) 1
Mr. Buxey's Blooming Rose, 11st 1lb (Mr. Gresson) 2
Major C. M. Dobell's Late, 11st 1lb (Mr. Johnson) 3
Mr. David's St. Andrew, 11st 1lb (Mr. Moller) 0
* Capt. Bland's Marguerite 10st 8lbs (Mr. Cumming) 0
* 2lbs overweight.

This event only attracted seven entries, and of these two did not start. On getting away St. Andrew took the lead, Blooming Rose being second. Going round by the Bridge St. Andrew was leading by eight lengths from Hermit, Late having secured second place, and Blooming Rose third, Marguerite being 20 lengths behind the leader. Coming down from the Black Rock the field closed up and Hermit took the lead, with Blooming Rose second and Late third. After passing the Village Blooming Rose challenged Hermit, but was unable to get ahead, Hermit finishing a length and a half in front. Time, 2 mins. 26 3/5 secs.

The HONGKONG DERBY; a sweepstakes of \$20 each with \$1,500 added (half forfeit if declared on or before day of closing entries); winner to receive 70 per cent; second 20 per cent; third 10 per cent; for walers subscribed for by members as Derby griffins; subscription waler griffins eligible; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a half.

Sir Horace McMahon's Kismet, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Johnson) 1
Mr. Jay's Rheingold, 10st 7lbs (Mr. P. A. Cox) 2
Mr. David's Glory, 11st 5lbs (Mr. W. W. Cox) 3
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Arrogant, 10st 10lb (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Mr. Gillies' Loyalist, 10st 13lbs (Mr. Moller) 0
* Capt. O. S. Flower's Battle-Axe, 11st 10lbs (Mr. Lloyd) 0
* 3lbs overweight.

Only half-a-dozen of the horses which had entered ran—a very small field indeed for the Derby. Though Rheingold and Glory had a good many backers. Mr. Gillies' Loyalist was probably the chief favourite, Mr. Gillies himself accompanied his trainer as he led the horse, accompanied by a stable companion, on to the course. On getting off Glory took the lead, followed by Arrogant and Loyalist. On the straight being entered the first time the order was Glory, Loyalist, Arrogant. Glory maintained a good lead when passing the Grand Stand, Loyalist and Arrogant being almost abreast. Having gone once round Battle-axe ran off the course. At the Bridge Kismet took second place, Arrogant being third, and Loyalist fourth, Glory still being ahead. Going up to the Black Rock Kismet got abreast of Glory, Rheingold being eight lengths behind. Arrogant was fourth. Passing the Village the order was Kismet, Glory, Rheingold. The order was the same when the straight was entered. Glory was, however, seen to be flagging, whilst Loyalist was apparently finished. Kismet maintained the lead until the finish, winning by two lengths, Rheingold being three lengths ahead of Glory. Loyalist was fourth. Time 2/55 3/5.

The LUSITANO CUP; presented by the members of the Club Lusitano; second to receive half the entrance fees; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; previous winners at this meeting 7lbs. extra; ponies that have never won a race allowed 5lbs.; entrance \$10. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. G. H. Potts' Forest King, 11st 4lbs (Mr. W. W. Cox) 1
Mr. Buxey's New Rose, 11st 1lb (Mr. Gresson) 2
Mr. Kingston's Polka, 11st 1lb (Mr. Johnston) 3
Mr. Derick's Thunderstorm, 11st 1lb (Mr. Cumming) 0
Mr. David's Strategist, 11st 2lbs (Mr. Moller) 0

Forest King was favourite, with New Rose second favourite. The race started near the Black Rock, Forest King getting away first and Thunderstorm tailing a x lengths behind all the others. Entering the straight for the first time the order was—Forest King, Strategist, Thunderstorm, and New Rose together, and Polka some distance behind. The same order was maintained as the horses went round by the Bridge, the only difference being that Thunderstorm had drawn away from New Rose, and now occupied third place. Passing the Black Rock, no appreciable difference was noticed, but New Rose again drew up and took third place. Thunderstorm coming on fourth and Polka bringing up the rear. New Rose still continued to overhaul, and passing the Village had taken second place. Forest King still maintained the lead by about two lengths. Entering the straight, Forest King was hard pushed by New Rose, which in turn was followed by Strategist. The last-named, however, soon dropped away. Forest King, going easy, won hands down by five lengths; New Rose second, and Polka third. Time, 2 mins. 42 2/5 secs.

The COMPRADORS' CUP; presented; second to receive half the entrance fees; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; weight for inches as per scale; winner of Valley Stakes 7lbs. extra; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. Hammonia's Baron, 10st 32lbs (Mr. P. A. Cox) 1
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Innocent, 11st 12lbs (Mr. Walwyn) 2
Mr. A. Babington's Sundowner, 10st 13lbs (Mr. May) 3
Sir Horace McMahon's Mentor, 11st 2lbs (Mr. Johnson) 0
Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 10st 10lbs (Mr. Hart Buck) 0

All got well away at the start, but very slowly. Innocent, if anything, leading. Passing the Winning Post for the first time, Croxton forged ahead, and was followed by Innocent, Sundowner, and Mentor, Baron coming on last. At the Bridge, Croxton, going gamely, had a lead of twelve lengths, Mentor and Sundowner occupying second and third places, and Innocent and Baron being about equal distances behind. Croxton still lead as the horses neared the Black Rock, but on passing it he suddenly went down the hill, and when pulled up had fallen away behind. The lead was now taken by Baron, which entered the straight first, closely followed by Innocent. A splendid race came between these two resulted in a win for Baron by four lengths; Innocent being second and Sundowner third. Five lengths between second and third. Mentor was fourth and Croxton last. Time, 1 min. 59 3/5 secs.

The HONGKONG CLUB CUP; presented; second to receive the entrance fees; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$15. One mile and a half.

Mr. Buxey's Rose de France, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. Derick's The Doctor, 11st 1lb (Mr. Cummings) 2
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Bulbul, 10st 12lbs (Mr. Johnston) 3
Mr. G. H. Potts' Interrogation, 11st 4lbs (Mr. W. W. Cox) 0
Mr. Dryasdust's Tit-Bits, 10st 9lbs (Mr. P. A. Cox) 0
Mr. David's Tarantula, 11st 1lb (Mr. Moller) 0
Mr. Dryasdust's Sinbad, 10st 9lbs (Mr. Crawford) 0
Mr. Mansfield's Ante, 11st 4lbs (Mr. Walwyn) 0

The race was an open one, all starting at about equal chances. The distance was the same as for the Derby. Several false starts were made, but finally all got well away, Ante immediately taking the lead, followed closely by Bulbul and Tit-Bits. At the Rock Doctor took the lead, Tit-Bits and Ante coming on hard behind, with Sinbad fourth and Interrogation fifth. Round by the Village Doctor still held the lead, followed in order by Tit-Bits, Sinbad, and Ante. Passing the winning post for the first time, the order was—Doctor, Interrogation, Sinbad, Tit-Bits, Ante, Bulbul, Rose de France, and Tarantula. Sinbad crept up to Doctor by the Bridge, and a neck-and-neck race ensued; Bulbul was third. Going by the Black Rock Doctor once more took the lead from Sinbad, Bulbul coming on hard in third place. As the horses passed the Village, Bulbul forged ahead splendidly and took a good lead from Doctor and Sinbad. Rounding the corner they tailed out, Bulbul still leading, with Doctor second and Sinbad third; Rose de France was strongly pelting along on the outside. It was a hard race, as all entered the straight, almost, as it appeared from distance, in a bunch. Rose de France now challenged Bulbul and Doctor, and passed both at the Distance Post, winning a hard race by half-a-length; Doctor was second and Bulbul third, a long neck separating them. Time, 3 mins. 19 secs.

The ENCOURAGEMENT STAKES; a sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$150 added; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; winner to receive 70 per cent.; second 20 per cent.; third 10 per cent.; previous winners excluded; weight for inches as per scale. Once round.

Mr. John Peel's Dingo, 10st 13lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	1
Sir Horace McMahon's Mentor, 11st 2lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	2
Mr. A. Babington's Sundowner, 10st 13lbs	(Mr. May)	3
Mr. Hart Buck's *Lincoln, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Hart Buck)	0
Mr. Buxey's Wood Rose, 10st 11lbs	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	0
Mr. H. Hill's Bullseye, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. Derick's Deep Bay, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Ford)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis' *Blazer, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Lloyd)	0
Mr. Ellis Kelly's Alaric, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Brutton)	0
Mr. Wheelrut's The Giraffe, 11st 5lb	(Mr. Cummings)	0
Mr. Roy's Blue Gum, 10st 1 lbs	(Mr. Gedge)	0
Mr. Oswald's Scintillant, 10st 9lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. Jay's Altgold, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Moller)	0

There were altogether 13 starters for this race—the biggest field of the day. Naturally several false starts were made, but finally all got away except Deep Bay, which was left behind. Mentor took the lead, and maintained it till the Bridge was reached, when Bull's Eye took first place, having a good second in Lincoln. At the Black Rock Bull's Eye still led, Dingo and Mentor coming on second and third respectively. Dingo was going strongly, and, passing the Village, took the lead from Bull's Eye, which dropped into second place. Mentor and Sundowner taking third and fourth respectively. Mentor now made a spurt, and at the Distance Post passed Dingo, which, a good second, was followed by Blue Gum. Dingo was not defeated, however, and succeeded in repassing Mentor, winning a hard race by half a length. Mentor was second and Sundowner third. Time, 1 min. 49 3/5 secs.

SECOND DAY, WEDNESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY.

Beautiful weather again favoured the races on Wednesday. The events were the same as usual on the second day, except that the Scurry Stakes were displaced by the Great Southern Handicap. The Derby winner, Kismet, had been entered for two or three of the events, but owing to its being heavily handicapped did not start. In the first event, the Flyaway Stakes, Mr. G. H. Potts had entered his Desert King and Moriturus, and both proved winners (first and third). Mr. Mansfield's Ace of Hearts won the Great Southern handicap easily. There was a tough struggle between Polka, Strategist, and Sinbad for third

place, Polka ultimately coming off best. The German Cup was easily won by Mr. Darius's Glory. Mr. David's Loyalist, which at one time looked like winning, being eight lengths behind. The Navy Cup was a good race. Mr. John Peel's Set pulled it off, after a severe competition with Mr. Derick's The Doctor. The Exchange Plate was won by Mr. John Peel's Baluchi, which secured the lead when entering the straight. The favourite for the Jockey Cup was Sir Horace McMahon's Mentor, which cantered in. In the race for the Tai Yeak Fong Cup Mr. Hammonia's Donner was behind until the straight was reached, when he shot ahead and won. Out of 16 entries for the Professional Cup only six faced the starter. Ante acted as pacemaker for the greater part of the race, but was finally run out and the race won by Bulbul. On returning to the scale an objection was lodged by the owner of Forest King, at the instance of his jockey, on the ground of a cross by the rider of Bulbul. A meeting of the Stewards was at once convened and the affair investigated, the result being that the objection to the winner was sustained. The race was awarded to Forest King, who finished second, Bulbul being disqualified. For the final race six numbers were hoisted, but owing to Sundowner, which was to have been ridden by Mr. Johnson, Bulbul's jockey in the previous race, not arriving in time, the gate was closed and only five horses ran. This regrettable incident gave rise to considerable comment, as Sundowner had been freely backed. From a splendid start, Ileene got away and led all the way round, although, on coming into the straight for the last time, he was challenged by Croxton. It is curious to note that the first three, Ileene, Croxton, and Bull's Eye, maintained exactly the same places all the way round, and finished in the order named.

The band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers was again in attendance, and also the band of the German cruiser *Hansa*.

The following are the particulars of the different events:—

The FLYAWAY STAKES; a sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$100 added; second to receive \$50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; non-winners at this meeting allowed 3lbs.; subscription ponies of any previous season allowed 3lbs.; previous winners at this meeting 7lbs. extra. Three quarters of a mile.

Mr. G. H. Potts' Desert King, * 10st 12lbs	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	1
Mr. Hart Buck's Esperance, 10st 3lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	2
Mr. G. H. Potts' Moriturus, 11st 11lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	3
Mr. John Peel's Baluchi, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	0
Mr. Derick's Thunderstorm, 10st 12lb	(Mr. Cumming)	0
Mr. H. M. Richard's Hermit, 11st 2lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. Dryasdust's Tit-Bits, * 10st 9lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	0
Mr. Buxey's Blooming Rose, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Moller)	0

* 3lbs overweight.

Twenty-one horses had been entered for this race, and it was expected that eight would start. Mr. Derick's Thunderstorm, however, did not get on to the course in time for the start, the race being begun without it. Hermit at once took the lead, followed by Baluchi and Moriturus. Coming round the bend, Moriturus got ahead of Hermit, which took second place, together with Baluchi. Tit-Bits being last. At the Black Rock, Moriturus was leading by four lengths, Desert King and Baluchi being second and third. Desert King continued to forge ahead, and by the time the Village was reached had come up to Moriturus. Entering the straight the two ponies raced together, Baluchi being third, Esperance fourth, Blooming Rose sixth, and Tit-Bits last. At the Distance Post Desert King was still leading, but Moriturus had fallen behind, Esperance being second and Baluchi third. Moriturus, however, pulled up, and secured third place, Desert King being first and Esperance second. Three-quarters of a length divided the first and second, and three lengths the second and third. Time, 1 min. 32 2/5 secs.

The GREAT SOUTHERN HANDICAP; winner to receive \$1,000; second \$200; third \$50; entrance \$10; for China ponies. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Mansfield's Ace of Hearts, 10st 4lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	1
Mr. Derick's Tube Rose, † 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Cumming)	2
Mr. Kingston's Polka, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	3
Mr. Buxey's New Rose, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	0
Capt. H. M. Richard's Edelweiss, 11st 10lb	(Mr. Lloyd)	0
Mr. Dryasdust's Sinbad, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	0
Mr. David's Strategist, * 10st 9lbs	(Mr. Moller)	0

* 16lbs overweight. † 3lbs overweight.

Though 27 had entered for this race only seven horses ran. All got off well, Ace of Hearts in front, but being almost immediately displaced by Tube Rose. Entering the straight for the first time the order was—Tube Rose, Sinbad, and Ace of Hearts. On passing the Bridge, Sinbad and Strategist were together, followed by Ace of Hearts; New Rose and Tube Rose were together, with Edelweiss last. In the bend Sinbad got ahead of Strategist, Ace of Hearts being third, and Tube Rose fourth. Coming down from the Black Rock Sinbad lost ground, Ace of Hearts taking up the lead, with Strategist second, and New Rose third. When passing the Village, Ace of Hearts was leading by three lengths; Strategist was second, but Tube Rose had got third place, New Rose being out of the running by this time. Ace of Hearts cantered in eight lengths ahead of Tube Rose. A fine race between Polka, Strategist and Sinbad resulted in Polka securing third place. Time, 2 min. 44 1/5 sec.

The GARRISON CUP; presented by the officers of the garrison; second to receive \$100; for walers subscribed for by members as derby griffins; subscription waler griffins eligible; handicap; previous non-starters carry top weight; entrance \$1. One mile.

Mr. Jay's Rheingold, 11st 2lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	1
Mr. David's Unionist, † 10st 9lbs	(Mr. Moller)	2
Mr. Derick's Farewell, † 10st 7lbs	(Mr. Cumming)	3
Mr. Buxey's Imperial Rose, * 10st	(Mr. Gresson)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Arrogant, 10st 8lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. Hammonia's Blitz, § 10st 5lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	0

* 4lbs overweight. † 2lbs overweight.

‡ 5lbs overweight. § 9lbs overweight.

In this race six out of the twenty horses entered started. Imperial Rose at once got in front, and was still leading when passing the Grand Strand for the first time. Farewell being second and Arrogant third. At the Black Rock Imperial Rose and Farewell were still first and second, but Unionist had won third place from Arrogant, which was fourth. At the Village, Unionist, which had made a spurt, was leading, with Imperial Rose second and Arrogant third. Unionist entered the straight with a lead, but was challenged by Rheingold. The latter got ahead, and won by two lengths, two lengths dividing the second and third. Time, 1 min. 59 2/5 sec.

The GERMAN CUP; presented by the members of the German Club; second to receive half the entrance fees; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; weight for inches as per scale; entrance \$10. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Darius' Glory, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	1
Mr. David's Loyalist, 10st 3lbs	(Mr. Moller)	2
Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	3
Mr. Hammonia's Baron, 11st 13lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Innocent, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	0

Five horses out of seventeen which had entered ran. On getting away Glory led, with Croxton second and Loyalist third. On passing the Stand the first time Loyalist had secured second place, and at the bend had come up to

Glory. At the Black Rock Glory again took the lead from Loyalist. On passing the Rock Glory and Loyalist were level, Croxton following ten lengths behind. Glory entered the straight with half-a-length lead from Loyalist, Croxton being ten lengths behind. Glory continued to increase his lead, and won easily by eight lengths, there being ten lengths between the second and third. Time, 2 min. 25 sec.

The NAVY CUP; presented by officers of H.M. Fleet; second to receive half the entrance fees; third \$25; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners of one race at this meeting 3lbs. extra; of two or more races, 5lbs. extra; non-winners at this meeting allowed 3lbs.; previous non-starters to carry 12st.; entrance \$10. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. John Peel's Set, 11st 10lbs ... (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. Derick's The Doctor, 10st 12lbs ... (Mr. Cummings) 2
Mr. Nauticus' Sunshine, 10st 9lbs (Mr. May) 3
Major C. M. Dobell's Lute, 10st 12lbs ... (Mr. Johnson) 0

Of the twenty-five horses entered for this race only four turned up. The Doctor started off with a lead, followed by Sunshine and Lute. At the Bridge the order was the same, but at the Black Rock, Sunshine drew up to The Doctor, being closely followed by Set. At the Village, Set was leading, with Doctor second and Sunshine third. Set maintained his lead along the straight, closely followed by Doctor. The latter, however, was unable to get in front. Set winning by about half a length. Time, 2 min. 40 2/5 sec.

The EXCHANGE PLATE; value \$500; presented by the bankers and exchange brokers of Hongkong; second to receive \$100; third \$50; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners of one race at this meeting 5lbs. extra; of two or more races 7lbs. extra; unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs.; previous non-starters to carry 12st.; entrance \$10. One mile.

Mr. John Peel's Baluchi, 10st 10lbs ... (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. Marshall's Hope, 10st 7lbs ... (Mr. Crawford) 2
Mr. Derick's Sandstorm, 11st 1lb ... (Mr. Cummings) 3
Mr. David's Tarantula, 10st 10lbs ... (Mr. Moller) 0
Mr. G. H. Pott's Desert King, 11st 3lbs ... (Mr. W. W. Cox) 0
Capt. H. M. Richard's Hermit, 11st 10lbs ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Mr. Kingston's Polka, 11st 1lb (Mr. Johnson) 0

Of the twenty-four horses entered seven started. At the second attempt they got away splendidly. Passing the Grand Stand the first time Hope led, Tarantula being second and Baluchi third. This was the order when the Bridge was reached, except that Hermit had come up to Baluchi. In the bend, Hope had a lead of four lengths from Tarantula. Hope and Tarantula were first and second at the Black Rock, Sandstorm being third and Desert King fourth. Coming round by the Village, Baluchi pulled up towards the front, Desert King also joining the leaders. Entering the straight, Desert took the lead, followed by Baluchi, Hope, and Sandstorm. When nearing the finishing post, Baluchi pulled ahead and won by a couple of lengths. Time, 2 min. 9 sec.

The JOCKEY CUP; value \$150; second to receive \$50; for subscription waler griffins non winners of this season, 1900-1901; to be ridden by jockeys who have not had a winning mount previous to this meeting in Hongkong or China; handicap; entrance \$5. One mile.

Sir Horace McMahon's Mentor, 11st ... (Mr. Dobell) 1
Mr. A. Babington's Sundowner, 11st 5lbs ... (Mr. Finch) 2
Mr. Derick's Deep Bay, 11st 9lbs ... (Mr. Ford) 3
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Blazer, 10st 10lbs ... (Mr. Lloyd) 0
Mr. Jay's Altgold, 12st ... (Mr. Woodgates) 0
Mr. Roy's Blue Gum, 11st 10lbs ... (Mr. Des Vaux) 0
Mr. Hart Buck's Lincoln, 10st 8lbs ... (Mr. Moon) 0

* 6lbs, † 26lbs, ‡ 16lbs, § 20lbs, and
‡ each 1lb overweight.

Seven out of the twenty-two horses entered ran. After an even start Mentor took the lead, and was ahead when passing the Stand, Sundowner being second, Blazer third, and Altgold some 20 paces in the rear. Mentor maintained the lead, and at the Black Rock was four lengths in front, Deep Bay being second and Blue Gum third. Mentor still kept ahead and at the Village was leading by five lengths, Deep Bay and Sundowner following. Mentor entered the straight with a lead of eight lengths. At the Distance Post Sundowner took second place. Mentor cantered in, winning by 12 lengths. Sundowner second, Deep Bay third, and Blue Gum fourth. Time, 2 mins. 2 2/5 secs.

The TAI YEUK FONG CUP; value \$200; presented; second to receive \$50; for walers subscribed for as derby and subscription griffins; winner of the Garrison Cup excluded; handicap. Once round.

Mr. Hammonia's Donner, 10st 6lbs ... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 1
Mr. David's Unionist, 10st 10lbs ... (Mr. Moller) 2
Mr. Derick's Farewell, 10st 13lbs ... (Mr. Cumming) 3
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Haphazard, 10st 4lbs ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Mr. John Peel's Dingo, 11st ... (Mr. Gresson) 0
Mr. David's Colonist, 10st 10lbs ... (Mr. May) 0

Of the 18 horses entered six started, all getting off well. Going round by the Bridge Dingo led, followed by Colonist and Haphazard, Donner being last. Along the bend, Colonist secured first place, with Dingo second. Colonist led at the Black Rock, but Haphazard, which was gradually coming up, had secured second place, and on coming round by the Village led, but latterly got behind. Coming up the straight Donner took a good lead and finished first. Time, 1 min. 46 secs.

The PROFESSIONAL CUP; presented; second to receive half the entrance fees; third \$25; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; previous winners at this meeting of one race 2 lbs. extra; of two races 4 lbs. extra; of three or more races 7 lbs. extra; non-winners at this meeting allowed 3 lbs.; non-starters at this meeting excluded; entrance \$10. One mile and a half.

* Mr. J. H. Lewis' Bulbul, 10st 9lbs ... (Mr. Johnson) 1
Mr. G. H. Potts' Forest King, 12st 6lbs ... (Mr. W. W. Cox) 2
Mr. Derick's The Doctor, 10st 12lbs ... (Mr. Chumming) 3
Mr. Mansfield's Ante, 11st 4lbs ... (Mr. Walwyn) 0
Capt. H. M. Richard's Edelweiss, 10st 12lbs ... (Mr. Lloyd) 0
Mr. Buxey's Rose de France, 11st ... (Mr. Gresson) 0

* Disqualified.

A good start was made, Ante getting away first, followed by Rose de France and Edelweiss. At the Black Rock Ante still headed the field, and entered the straight first. Edelweiss now being second and Bulbul third, with Forest King fourth. The order of passing the Stand for the first time was—Ante, Edelweiss, Bulbul, Forest King, Doctor, and Rose de France, the last named about ten lengths behind the leader. Going by the Bridge, Edelweiss took the lead, Ante dropping into second place and Forest King coming on third. Forest King was going powerfully, and at the mile-and-half stretch headed the field, with Bulbul second, Edelweiss third, and Doctor fourth. Ante here was finished, and dropped out. Going down the hill from the Black Rock, Forest King led by three lengths from Bulbul, Doctor running up to third place. Round by the Village the same order was maintained. Entering the Straight, Forest King still held the lead, but at the Distance Post Bulbul beat Forest King, and won by a length. Forest King was second and Doctor third, a length also separating them. Time, 3 min. 17 2/5 secs.

Mr. G. H. Potts, owner of Forest King, laid an objection to Bulbul on the ground of crossing, and after long consideration by the Stewards, the objection was sustained and the race awarded to Forest King, Bulbul being disqualified.

The GYMKHANA STAKES; value \$200; presented by the Gymkhana Committee, added to a sweepstakes of \$5 each; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; all winners and previous non-starters excluded; winner to receive 70 per cent.; second 20 per cent.; third 10 per cent.; weight for inches as per scale. One mile.

Mr. John Peel's Ileene, 10st. 10lbs ... (Mr. Gresson) 1
Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 10st. 10lbs ... (Mr. Crawford) 2
Mr. H. Hill's Bull's Eye, 10st. 10lbs ... (Mr. Walwyn) 3
Mr. Oswald's Scintillant, 10st. 10lbs ... (Mr. P. A. Cox) 0
Mr. Ellis Kelly's Alaric, 10st. 10lbs ... (Mr. Brutton) 0

Six numbers were hoisted, but at the last moment a start had to be made without Sundowner, although the judges held back the race for a considerable time to give the horse an opportunity to make an appearance. An even start was made, all getting away together. Passing the Stand for the first time, however, Ileene had taken the lead, Croxton and Bull's Eye being second and third respectively. At the Bridge the field tailed out slightly, Ileene still leading, with Croxton second, Bull's Eye third, Scintillant fourth, and Alaric last. The order was exactly the same at the Black Rock and on passing the Village, Ileene gamely heading entered the straight with a lead of quite four lengths from Croxton, which still held second place. Croxton challenged Ileene on the outside just as the Distance Post was fetched, but Ileene romped in an easy winner by three lengths. Time, 1 min. 59 sec.

THIRD DAY, THURSDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY.

Thursday opened anything but promisingly for the races. It had rained over night and was drizzling more or less all the morning. Consequently the ground was rendered somewhat heavy and the attendance of the general public was considerably affected. In the afternoon, however, the sun came out and the attendance improved. The band of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers was again in attendance.

The military took umbrage at the disqualification of Bulbul (ridden by Lieutenant Johnson) the previous day and scratched all their horses. We trust that the Jockey Club will not pass this over in silence, for it is neither a sportsmanlike nor a courteous action. There was also only one military man, Lieut. Walwyn, riding. His mount was Mr. David's Loyalist, one of the six horses which competed for the Chinese Club Cup. It was the general opinion that he would have no difficulty in pulling it off, and this expectation was realised, he winning in a canter by eight lengths. The Grand Stand Stakes were carried off without much trouble by Mr. John Peel's Set, which had only two horses—The Doctor and Sinbad—to compete against. The Challenge Cup was won by Mr. Dryasdust's Sinbad by five lengths, and the Ladies' Purse was pulled off by Donner, who beat Arrogant by a short head after Arrogant had been leading the whole way. The "Blake" Challenge Cup fell to the favourite, Ileene, who won by four lengths, and the Parsee Cup was carried off by Mr. Buxey's New Rose, which, after lagging behind almost the whole distance, came to the front towards the finish and won easily. Glory was a hot favourite for the Waler Championship Stakes. The distance was a mile, and Glory held the field right from start to finish, winning hands down. The Consolation Stakes might have been anybody's race. St. Andrew, which led at the start, was displaced at the Bridge by Tit-Bits, and the latter headed the field till the Black Rock was reached, when it in turn had to give way to Sunshine. Experience was fifth in passing the Village, but, coming up strong on the outside at the straight, won pulling up. The Champion Stakes was easily won by the good old pony Sinbad, whose successes date back the last five years. Sinbad led all the way round. That a starter's duties are not easy was fully exemplified in the Nil Desperandum Stakes, and no less than five attempts had to be made before the field got off. The distance was only half-a-mile and the race consequently a scurrying match, Croxton winning by four lengths from Sundowner, the favourite.

The following are the particulars of the different events:—

The CHINESE CLUB CUP; presented; second to receive half the entrance fees; third \$25; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; handicap; previous non-starters to carry top weight; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. David's Loyalist, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Moller)	1
Mr. Wheelrut's The Giraffe, 10st 6lbs	(Mr. Cummings)	2
Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 10st 6lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	3
Mr. John Peel's Dingo, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Innocent, 1st 12lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. Roy's Blue Gum, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. May)	0

* Each 2lbs, + 14lbs overweight.

In this race, for which six of the 24 horses entered ran, Loyalist was a hot favourite. All got off at the first attempt, Loyalist taking the lead. Passing the Stand he was four lengths ahead of Croxton, Blue Gum being third, two lengths behind Croxton. At the Rock Loyalist was three lengths ahead of Croxton. Innocent had secured third place, being six lengths behind the leader. Coming round by the Village Loyalist increased his lead to five lengths. Giraffe had ousted Innocent from the third place. When in the straight Loyalist still increased the lead and cantered home eight lengths of Giraffe, which managed to pass Croxton but a short distance from home. Time, 2 min. 22 sec.

The GRAND STAND STAKES; value \$1,000; second to receive \$200; third \$50; for China ponies; winners of one race 3lbs. extra; winners of two races 5lbs. extra; and of three or more races 7lbs. extra; non-winners at this meeting allowed 4lbs.; previous non-starters to carry 12 stone; entrance \$10. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. John Peel's Set, 12st	(Mr. Gresson)	1
Mr. Derick's The Doctor, 11st	(Mr. Cummings)	2
Mr. David's Tarantula, 11st	(Mr. Moller)	3

Only three out of the 27 horses entered for this race started. The Doctor took the lead, with Tarantula second and Set third. Passing the Stand the first time the Doctor still led, four lengths dividing him from Set, who was the same distance ahead of Tarantula. Going round the Bend Set began to close up, and when the Rock was reached was only a length behind the leader, Tarantula being ten lengths to the rear. Coming round by the Village the Doctor was put under the whip, but Set passed him easily and entered the straight with a lead of two lengths. Running easy, Set won by five lengths. Time, 2 min. 48 sec.

The CHALLENGE CUP; presented; for China ponies; to be won two years consecutively by a pony or ponies the *bona fide* property of the same owner; winner to receive 70 per cent.; second 20 per cent.; third 10 per cent. of the entrance fees; weight for inches as per scale; entrance (forced) \$5. One mile and three quarters.

Mr. Dryasdust's Sinbad, 10st 9lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	1
Mr. Buxey's Rose de France, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	2
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Bulbul, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	3
Mr. David's Strategist, 11st 7lbs	(Mr. Moller)	0

There were but four starters for this race. All got away at the first attempt, and on drawing out it was seen that Bulbul was two lengths behind the other three, which were even. Passing the Bridge the first time Strategist was leading, followed by Sinbad, which was five lengths ahead of Bulbul and Rose de France. At the Rock the same order was maintained, except that the leaders had increased their leads to three lengths. Entering the straight for the first time Sinbad shot ahead, and the order when the Stand was passed the first time was Sinbad, Strategist, Bulbul, Rose de France. Arriving at the Bridge in the second round Bulbul closed up to Strategist for second place, and going round the Bend passed him. At the mile and a half post Rose de France took third place, Strategist falling back last. At the Rock Rose de France got on

even terms with Bulbul and passed him going down the hill. At the Village Sinbad came up and secured the lead. Entering the straight he was challenged by Rose de France and fell back somewhat, but pulling up again won by five lengths. Bulbul being ten lengths behind Rose de France. Time, 4 min. 0½ sec.

The LADIES' PURSE; for walers subscribed for as derby or subscription griffins; handicap; previous non-starters to carry top weight; entrance \$5. One round.

Mr. Hammonia's Donner, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	1
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Arrogant, 10st 3lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	2
Mr. David's Unionist, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Moller)	3
Mr. Buxey's Imperial Rose, 10st 11lb	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. David's Colonist, 10st 6lbs	(Mr. May)	0

* 5lbs, + 8lbs, + 6lbs, overweight. In this race five out of the 23 who had entered ran. At the start Arrogant took a slight lead, Unionist following to the rear. At the Bridge the order was Arrogant, Imperial Rose, Donner, Colonist, and Unionist. Arrogant still led going round the back stretch, being three lengths before Imperial Rose going up the hill to the Rock. Arrogant maintained his lead, and Donner closed up to Imperial Rose. Coming round by the village Arrogant still led, with Donner second, Unionist third, Imperial Rose fifth, and Colonist last. Arrogant entered the straight with a lead of a length and a half from Donner, with Unionist third. Donner challenged Arrogant at the Distance Post, and a hard race between the leaders resulted in Donner winning by a short head. Time, 1 min. 50 1/5 sec.

The "BLAKE" CHALLENGE CUP; presented by His Excellency Sir Henry A. Blake, G.C.M.G.; for subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; to be won twice by subscription waler griffins the *bona fide* property of the same owners; winner to receive 70 per cent. of the entrance fees; second 20 per cent.; third 10 per cent.; weight for inches as per scale; winner of the Valley Stakes and/or German Cup 9lbs. extra; winners of any other races 5lbs. extra; penalties accumulative up to 9lbs.; entrance fee \$10. One mile.

Mr. John Peel's Ileene, 11st 11lb	(Mr. Gresson)	1
Mr. Hammonia's Baron, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	2
Mr. J. H. Lewis' Innocent, 12st	(Mr. Walwyn)	3
Mr. Ellis Kelly's Alarie, 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Cumming)	0

Four out of 19 entries ran. After an even start Ileene was the first to show prominence, Baron being second and Innocent third. At the Bridge Ileene was still leading, but Innocent had taken second place, being a length and a half ahead of Baron and two lengths behind Ileene. This order was maintained round by the Village, the distance between the first three being the same. Alarie was eight lengths in the rear. In the straight Innocent challenged the leader on the outside, but was unable to get on terms with him, and at the finish had fallen back to third place, Baron being four lengths behind Ileene and three lengths ahead of Innocent. Time 2min. 5sec.

The PARSEE CUP; presented; second to receive \$50; third \$25; for China ponies; weight for inches as per scale; winners of one race at this meeting 3lbs. extra; of two or more races 5lbs. extra; placed ponies allowed 3lbs.; unplaced ponies allowed 6lbs.; non-starters excluded; entrance \$10. One mile.

Mr. Buxey's New Rose, 11st	(Mr. Moller)	1
Mr. G. H. Potts's Desert King, 11st 11lb	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	2
Mr. Marshall's Hope, 10st 9lbs	(Mr. Crawford)	3
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Bulbul, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. Mansfield's Ace of Hearts, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. John Peel's Baluchi, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	0
Mr. Derick's Sandstorm, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. Cumming)	0
Mr. Nauticus's Sunshine, 10st 9lbs	(Mr. May)	0

* 2lbs overweight.

Out of 27 horses entered eight ran, including Mr. Potts's Desert King, the first of his horses to run Wednesday. They all got off together. Passing the Stand Desert King led, with Sandstorm second. At the bridge Sandstorm was leading, but in the back stretch again took second place with Hope third. Round by the Village Sandstorm and Desert King were running neck and neck. Then Hope forced the leaders and immediately afterwards New Rose came forward and won easily, with Desert King second and Hope third. Time, 2 mins. 14 secs.

The WALER CHAMPION STAKES; with \$750 added; for walers, winners only; a forced entry; entrance \$20; winners of two races \$30; of three or more races \$50; weight for inches as per scale. One mile.

Mr. Darius's Glory, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	1
Mr. Jay's Rheingold, 10st 7lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	2
Mr. David's Loyalist, 10st 13lbs	(Mr. Moller)	3
Mr. Hammonia's Donner 10st 10lbs	(Mr. Gresson)	0

Glory was a strong favourite—in fact, the only horse fancied for the race. The restive Loyalist had, as usual, to be led to the post, an attendant on each side. A splendid start was made, Glory at once taking first place. Passing the Stand for the first time, Glory had a clear lead, and was followed by Rheingold, Loyalist and Donner. Up the hill from the Bridge the same order was maintained, except that Rheingold was lessening Glory's lead. At the Black Rock no difference was noted in the position of the field, Glory still holding a clear lead of six lengths, which he carried into the Straight. Rheingold was now going his best, but though his rider did not spare the whip, Glory still held an undisputed lead of eight lengths. The race throughout was of a professional order, Glory always holding the rest and winning easily by ten lengths from Rheingold. Loyalist was third, and Donner a good fourth. Time, 2 min. 0½ sec. Glory, on leaving the field, was led past the Stand by two Shanghai ladies—Mrs. Wakeford Cox, wife of Glory's jockey, and Mrs. Crompton.

The CONSOLATION STAKES; a sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$250 added; second to receive \$100; third \$50; for beaten China ponies at this meeting; weight for inches as per scale. Once round.

Mr. Hart Buck's Esperance, 10st	(Mr. Crawford)	1
Mr. Dryasdust's Tit-Bits, 10st 9lbs	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	2
Mr. G. H. Potts's Interrogation, 11st 4lbs	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	3
Mr. David's St. Andrew, 11st 11lb	(Mr. Moller)	0
Mr. Derick's Tube Rose, 1st 4lb	(Mr. Cumming)	0
Mr. Nauticus's Sunshine, 10st 12lbs	(Mr. May)	0
Mr. Kingston's Polka, 11st 11lb	(Mr. Brutton)	0

Out of thirty entered, only seven faced the starter. From a good start, St. Andrew took the lead, the others in a bunch. Going round by the Bridge, Tit-Bits took first place, Sunshine second, and Polka third. The same order was maintained in the stretch for the Rock, but Interrogation now occupied third place. Sunshine, with a good spurt, took the lead from Tit-Bits, which, in second place, was followed by Interrogation, Tube Rose, Esperance, Polka, and St. Andrew. As the field were going round by the Village, Tit-Bits and Interrogation raced for the lead, but Tit-Bits still managed to hold it. Coming into the Straight the four leading ponies were Tit-Bits, Interrogation, Esperance, and Tube Rose. A rattlepace race ensued, and Esperance took the lead from the outside and won easily by quite ten lengths. Tit-Bits was second and Interrogation third. Time, 2 mins. 1 2/5 sec. Mrs. Jupp, niece of Mr. Hart Buck, owner of Esperance, led the horse past the Stand.

The CHAMPION STAKES; with \$750 added; for China ponies, winners at this meeting only; a forced entry; entrance \$20; winners of two races \$30; of three or more \$50; weight for inches as per scale. One mile and a quarter.

Mr. Dryasdust's Sinbad, 10st 9lb...	(Mr. Crawford)	1
Mr. John Peel's Set, 11st 7lb	(Mr. Gresson)	2
Mr. Buxey's New Rose, 11st 1lb	(Mr. Moller)	3
Mr. Mansfield's Ace of Hearts, 11st 1lb	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. G. H. Potts's Forest King, 11st 4lb	(Mr. W. W. Cox)	0
Mr. G. H. Potts's Desert King, 10st 12lb	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0

Sinbad took the lead from a level start, followed closely by Ace of Hearts. Passing the Stand, Sinbad still led, Forest King, Set, and Desert King running together for second place. At the Bridge Sinbad still headed, and as the Black Roak was passed the same horse led, with Set, New Rose, and Desert King following. The order was the same as the Village was fetched, and Sinbad entered the Straight with a lead of two lengths from Set, New Rose being third. New Rose and Sinbad were both under the whip, but the latter still maintained its lead, and won a good race, in which it led from start to finish, by three lengths; four lengths separated second and third. Time, 2 min. 47 2/5 sec.

The NIL DESPERANDUM STAKES; a sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$10 added; second to receive \$50; third \$25; for beaten subscription waler griffins of this season, 1900-1901; handicap. Half a mile.

Mr. Hart Buck's Croxton, 11st 2lb	(Mr. Crawford)	1
Mr. Babington's Sundowner, 10st 10lb	(Mr. May)	2
Mr. Jay's Altgold, * 10st 12lb	(Mr. Moller)	3
Mr. Derick's Deep Bay, 10st 6lb	(Mr. Cumming)	0
Mr. Oswald's Scintillant, 10st 4lb	(Mr. P. A. Cox)	0
Mr. J. H. Lewis's Blazer, 10st 4lb	(Mr. Walwyn)	0
Mr. Roy's Blue Gum, † 10st 7lb	(Mr. Gedge)	0
Mr. Bromox's Confederation, ‡ 10st 12lb	(Mr. Bruton)	0

* 8lbs, † 3lbs, ‡ 6lbs, overweight.

Great difficulty was experienced in getting the horses away, altogether four false starts being made. At the first attempt Scintillant and Confederation bolted, and the former had reached almost the Distance Post before he was pulled up. Deep Bay, at the third essay, also got refractory and reached the Village ere being turned. The fifth attempt saw a good start made, with Blazer in the lead and Scintillant close behind; Sundowner brought up the rear. The field entered the straight in a bunch, but Croxton, going gamely, ran into first place from the outside, and won a scurrying race by four lengths. Time, 59 2/5 secs.

FOOTBALL.

SHIELD COMPETITION.—THIRD ROUND.

The 15th Company (Siege Train), S.D., R.G.A., met B Company, R.W.F., at Happy Valley on Thursday afternoon, the 21st ult., in the third round for the Shield. The following was the composition of the teams:—

Siege Train:—Goal—Field; backs—Moorhouse and O'Brien; half-backs—Harman, Nicol, and Suttie; forwards—Gettings, Cleeve, Phinn, Riley, and Bond.

Fusiliers:—Goal—Bowditch; backs—Roberts and Ryan; half-backs—Tonks, Clark, and Meador; forwards—Gregory, Ainesbury, Matthews, Macdonald, and Dawson.

The Siege Train kicked off shortly after four o'clock, Phinn setting the ball in motion. The pass was smartly intercepted by Macdonald, who covered some ground before losing the ball to Suttie. Gettings and Cleeve regained possession, and brought the field well up to Bowditch's stand. The backs tackled, and sent the ball over in Gregory's direction. The latter passed to Ainesbury, who sprinted smartly along the wing. Field, too eager, ran out almost to boundary, and in attempting to keep the ball in play, conceded a throw-in. From this the ball was carried high over the Siege Train goal. The free kick did not relieve the pressure in Field's proximity, but this was effected by a foul against the

Fusiliers for Dawson being off-side. From this the Siege Train gained a corner, which, however, was not converted. Even play for some time was the order of things, and this eventuated in Dawson getting a long pass which he smartly centred. The pass was as promptly taken up, and a rush by the Fusilier forwards got the ball into the net. A few minutes later Cleeve made a spirited attempt to equalise, but the ball struck the post and bounded back into play. Bond cleverly captured, and sent in the equaliser. Half-time saw the score unaltered.

In the second half the Siege Train had it all their own way. The Fusiliers exhibited a failing they should try to get rid of—shouting on the field, which does not at all conduce to a better game. Suttie got possession and gave the forwards of the Siege Train a chance to call on Bowditch—an opportunity they utilised to such good advantage that a second goal was recorded, Cleeve sending the ball in. Ainesbury made one or two spirited attempts to relieve the dangerous pressing game of the Siege Train, but rarely got past the backs; even when this was effected, Field could always be relied on to fill the gap. Long passing between the Siege Train forwards carried them once more down the field, and to Bond was given the task of getting the ball through. He had to make two attempts, but the second was successful. The game ended in a win for the Siege Train by 3 goals to 1.

Hongkong Football Club met H. Company, R.W.F., at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd ult., in the third round for the Shield. The teams were:—

Club:—Goal—Russell; backs—Hay and Pinckney; half-backs—Jenkins, Bonnar, and Howard; forwards—Lowe, Von der Pfordten, Noble, Tullock, and Lee.

Fusiliers:—Goal—Johnson; backs—Smart and Dairs; half-backs—Roberts, Stafford, and Sweete; forwards—Dobbs, Walters, Shields, Galston, and Edwards.

A nasty, puffy wind was blowing as the teams lined up, but fortunately it decreased to a considerable extent as the game progressed, and did not materially affect play. The club kicked off, facing the west goal. Shields intercepted Noble's pass, but Howard recaptured and allowed Noble to take up the play. The latter shot, but Johnson saved easily, although he barely eluded Lowe, who tried a rush from the wing. The Fusiliers now covered ground, but were stopped by Russell, who is still suffering from the recent sprain to his ankle, and was forced, two minutes from the start, to take Hay's place in goal. Lowe sprinted along the wing, and centred. Close work at goal followed, and the Fusiliers had to concede a corner, which Lowe took. The Fusiliers, seizing a chance to relieve the pressure, broke away into the open with the ball, which they lost to Jenkins, who tried a long shot for goal, but sent it in wide. The Fusilier's forwards, after opening with a rather disjointed play, were now settling down into their places and a more open game was witnessed. Taking advantage of a long pass from centre, Edwards made a plucky attempt to open the scoring, but, being tackled, a corner was given. Edwards took the corner-kick, but sent the ball behind the net. A free kick against the Club in their own territory for illegal charging was not improved by the Fusiliers, the Club allowing the ball to run out of play. Howard took up play from the goalkeeper's kick, and after covering some ground in good style, passed to Lowe. Davis tried to stop the ball, but was too slow, and Lowe took charge. He centred to Noble, but the latter, though generally one of the surest when trying for goal, sent in a bye. Edwards, a minute later, had a similar experience. From centre play Shields carried his forwards up the field and to Galston was left the task of scoring, if possible. He made a capital attempt, and had hard luck when Russell just managed to return the leather. A good deal of the work was taking place on the Fusiliers' left wing, where Lowe was successful in capturing from Edwards. He centred, and Noble, seeing an opening, sent in a low ball. It was not at all a dangerous shot, and should have been saved. Johnson, however, tried to take it with his left foot, and as he is

accustomed to kicking with his right, the result was that he incontinently missed, the ball rolling easily into the net. It was an egregious blunder, and for a few minutes seemed to discourage the Fusiliers. The Club's forwards, overcoming a weak opposition, again invaded their opponents' territory and another shot from Noble was treated in identically the same way by Johnson. The shot, however, was not quite so true as the first, and struck the bar, where Johnson at last managed to capture and send it out. The Fusiliers again plucked up, and a spirited bit of play by Shields carried them into centre. Walters got the pass, and after a smart sprint passed judiciously to Dobbs, who tried to equalise. The shot, however, although well placed, was not strong enough, and some head work ensued. The ball eventually was taken out into the open, but the half-back rank of the Fusiliers held the Club and returned the leather to their comrades of the advance line, Russell had a hard job to save at one time, and with slightly better luck the Fusiliers would at this point have equalised. They gained a corner, but were not successful in converting it. Although once more rebuffed, the Fusiliers again returned to the attack, and in tackling showed to better advantage than the Club's forwards, who now appeared to be flagging. Taking up a pass from the wing, Shields, who was showing excellent form, kept the ball at his feet and simply forced his way through the half-backs and backs—the latter did not offer serious resistance—and equalised, Russell having no chance to save. The score at half-time thus stood at one all, although the Club, through Johnson's laxity, almost succeeded in adding a second goal to their score.

The resumption after the interval saw Noble capture the ball from the kick off, and pass to Tullock. The latter dribbled and sent a long ball over to the right wing, where Lowe took up play. When just on the point of shooting, he was charged by Sweete and knocked off the ball. Sweete carried the leather along the wing and passed on to Edwards, who centred at the proper moment. Walters received the ball from Shields, and some tough work now ensued, Howard and Bonnar doing their best to turn the attack. The soldiers, however, proved the better at the tackling game, as has already been said, and though they could not get any way near Russell, they at least secured a corner, which served the purpose in an easier way. Dobbs took the corner, and sent in a fine shot, dropping it just in front of Russell. Exciting play followed, and after a time the Club managed to relieve the pressure slightly. It was only slightly, however, the Fusiliers disputing every inch of the ground. Edwards, however, soon settled the matter. Picking up the ball about ten yards from goal, he sent in a shot that Russell could not possibly save, and recorded the winning goal. Lowe was given charge of the ball from centre play and sprinted along the wing. Sweete and Davis were in turn defeated, and with an almost open goal before him, Lowe screwed round and sent in a ball that was making straight for the net when Smart jumped and either deliberately or forgetfully struck it with his hand. A penalty kick was given by the referee, and Johnson—whose earlier work as custodian prepared the spectators for seeing the ball netted—created general surprise by saving cleverly. The Fusiliers got their third goal by a splendid shot from well out by Shields. The result was H. Company, 3; Club, 1.

The Club made a poor show in the second half. Russell is not a goalkeeper, but his injury prevented him from taking his usual place in back, where he is always seen to splendid advantage. Hay and Pinckney made a tame defence at back. The half-backs were capital, but only Lowe, Noble, and Tullock amongst the forwards did any effectual work. Noble and Lowe, in the second half, tried a change of places, but not finding that matters improved materially thereby, went back to their original positions. Of the Fusiliers, Shields and Edwards made the best appearance in a good line of forwards; their half-backs were excellent, but the backs could be improved. Johnson did not show up well at all at first, and gave away the goal. His later play, however, was better, and his saving of the penalty quite redeemed him in the eyes of the spectators.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the members of the association will be held at Volunteer Headquarters (by kind permission of Lieut.-Col. Sir J. W. Carrington, Kt., C.M.G.) on Monday, 4th March, at 5.15 p.m., for the purpose of passing the accounts and electing a committee and officers for 1901.

The following is the report:—

During the year a new agreement was entered into between the Naval Authorities and the association for the use of the range, which came into operation on the 1st October last.

The weekly competitions have been very well attended, and some fine scores have been made. Cups were won by Armourer-Sergeant Blair and Q.-M.-Sergeant Wallace, R.E.

Hongkong again won the interport match, with a score of 930, making the third successive win.

The committee desire to thank their many friends for their gifts of prizes and donations to the prize fund at Easter meeting.

MOWBRAY S. NORTHCOTE,
Honorary Secretary.

Hongkong, 22nd February, 1901.

BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

FIRST SERIES.

A boxing championship tournament to extend over three evenings has been arranged to take place in the Theatre Royal by Mr. C. T. Robinson. The first bouts (three two-minute rounds each bout) came off on Thursday night, in the presence of a large company. The following acted as seconds:—C. Sinclair (Siege Train), P. Hayes (Siege Train) Pte. J. Watkins (R. W. F.), J. K. Sellar (H.M.S. *Terrible*), and J. McGoun (U. S. S. *Bennington*). Mr. Frost (R. M. S. *Empress of Japan*) was referee, and Mr. C. T. Robinson master of ceremonies. Local gentlemen amateurs acted as judges. The following were the results:—

R. Jones, H. Company, R.W.F., beat D. Davies, E. Company, R.W.F. (feather-weights). W. S. Bailey, of Hongkong, beat Thos. Philip, of H.M.S. *Argonaut*. In the first round Bailey had decidedly the advantage. In the second things were much more even; but in the third round he pulled up and had much the best of it. There was a good deal of clinching in this bout.

C. Morris, C. Company, R.W.F., beat W. Thomas, B. Company, R.W.F. (middle-weights). An extra round had to be fought before the judges could agree as to the winner.

Bob Savidge, H.M.S. *Goliath*, beat Jack Gorman (heavy-weights). This was something of a fiasco. Mr. Robinson stepped to the front and announced that he would not give Gorman any prize money.

W. Howard R.A.M.C., beat Sergt. J. Veir, of H.M. Dock Yard (feather-weights), Veir giving up in the second round.

E. Mansford, H.M.S. *Argonaut*, met W. G. Green, H.M.S. *Endymion* (middle-weights). This was the hardest fought bout so far. Green had the best of the show, but in the third round he fouled Mansford, who was given in the winner.

Corporal Aldridge, 25th Company S.D.R.G.A. met Gunner McMurray, of the same company and division (heavy-weights), and was defeated in the second round.

Bentley, of the Naval Depot, and George Smith, of H.M.S. *Centurion* (light-weights), were the next couple. This was but an exhibition bout, however, Smith getting a bye, as W. Foster, R. M. L. I., with whom Smith had been drawn, did not put in an appearance.

C. A. Bowley, of Taikoo, met T. Mathews, of the Band of the R. W. F. (feather-weights), and was declared the winner at the conclusion of the first round.

W. S. Bailey, of Hongkong, made another appearance, this time in a heavy-weight contest with Ben. Davies, of the R.W.F., who took the place of J. H. Tibbs, of the U.S.S. *Brooklyn*. Bailey knocked his opponent out in the first round with a blow under the heart.

George Smith, of H.M.S. *Centurion*, had entered both as a light-weight and a middle-weight. In the light-weight competition he was given a bye. In the middle-weight com-

petition he met Sergeant Jones, of the R.W.F., whom he defeated in the first round.

Bob Berwick, Taikoo, and J. Sandford, B. Company, R.W.F., met in the middle-weights. An extra round was fought, when Berwick was declared the winner. The decision of the judges was not at all popular.

T. Harvey, R.M.A. H.M.S., *Tamar*, and J. Kinzey, U.S.S. *Bennington* (light-weights) met, and after a rather tame bout the former was declared the winner.

P. Gearing, H.M.S. *Endymion*, and Thomas Phillip, H.M.S. *Argonaut*, fought two rounds in the light-weights, when Gearing gave in.

O' Leary, D. Company, R.W.F., defeated P. Walters, R.W.F., in the feather-weights.

In the bout between J. Deegan, R.W.F., and P. Jones, R.W.F. (heavy-weights) Deegan was declared the victor on points.

HONGKONG.

The French gunboat *Vipère* left for Saigon on the 26th ult.

On the 22nd ult. the U.S. battleship *Oregon* arrived from Woosung, the U.S. transport *Egbert* from Manila, and the French gunboat *Comète* left on the same day for Canton.

Friday, the 22nd ult., was the anniversary of the birthday of George Washington. The warships in the Harbour were decorated with bunting, and a salute was fired at noon in honour of the event.

A lecture is to be delivered, under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, by Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C. The lecture will be delivered at the City Hall on the 5th inst., and the title is "An Examination of the Situation in the Far East." Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., will be in the chair.

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works, is shortly going home on a well-earned holiday, leaving on 12th March by the Pacific Mail Company's steamer *China*, and travelling by way of America. Mr. W. Chatham, Assistant Director of Public Works, who is returning from his vacation, is a passenger by the German liner *Stuttgart*, which is expected to arrive here about 6th March. He will assume the duties of the Department during the absence of Mr. Ormsby, to whom we extend our heartiest wishes for an enjoyable trip.

Mr. A. H. Pollard called at Hongkong on the 23rd ult. on his way from Manila to San Francisco, whither he is now proceeding by the *Gaeic*, which left on the 24th ult. Mr. Pollard tells us that the youthful Company have been having a first-rate season in Manila, so much so that Mr. Pollard is arranging to take the children to the United States themselves. However, before then the Lilliputians are to visit Shanghai and Japan. They leave Manila at the end of next month, and hope to stop here for a week on their way from the Philippines to Shanghai.

By the death of Major-General Peter Maclean, R.A., of Wimborne, Dorset, we find it announced that Lazony Hall, Cumberland, which is part of the estate, now descends to Mr. Hope Somerset-Maclean, a grandson of the deceased. This gentleman, we understand, is a nephew of Mr. J. Norton-Kyshe, the Registrar of the Supreme Court in this colony. General Maclean, we may add, in his early days, in addition to his services previously mentioned, was military secretary to Major-General William Jervois, K.H., Lieutenant-Governor and Commander of the Forces in Hongkong, 1851-1854.

The minstrel troupe of the U.S.S. *Kentucky* gave an entertainment in the Theatre Royal on the 23rd ult. before a crowded house. The entertainment was free, admittance being by card. The band of the *Kentucky* supplied the music, and gave splendid selections at intervals throughout the evening. The minstrel performance was well rendered and sustained, and in view of the fact that the performers are not accustomed to facing such a great audience, or, indeed, to appearing in public at all, the entertainment reflected great credit upon them. An effective feature was the coloured lamps borne on the breasts of the dusky "corner-men," which, fitted into their dress and controlled mechanically, could be set burning and extinguished at will. A three-round boxing contest had an especially favourable reception, and was encored, when the contestants boxed another round.

The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sum given for the extension of the Convent:—C. Fressell, Esq., \$100.

The return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week shows that 285 non-Chinese and 77 Chinese visited the former institution, 97 non-Chinese and 9577 Chinese the latter.

Apart from the five plague cases last week, the cases of communicable disease reported in the Colony were:—Eleven of cholera in the Harbour (three fatal), all imported from Singapore; one of diphtheria (Portuguese); and one of small-pox (Chinese), which proved fatal.

The second round of the handicap for the Challenge Cup at the Hongkong Chess Club has been concluded, and the draw for the third round is as follows:—Col. The O'Gorman v. Mr. F. G. Hendley, Mr. P. W. Sergeant v. Mr. Dastur.

A most enjoyable hockey match was witnessed on Monday, 25th ult., on the Kowloon parade ground, between the 5th Infantry, Hyderabad Contingent, and the Hongkong Hockey Club, resulting in a victory for the the Infantry by 6 goals to 3. The game was fast from beginning to finish. The first goal was scored by the Infantry within the first 3 minutes. The Club team mostly consisted of Artillery Officers.

An event that has created quite a stir amongst local sportsmen came off on the Race-course on the 22nd ult., in the presence of a goodly number of spectators. Mr. Johnson, of the Welsh Fusiliers, had been backed to walk a mile, run a mile, and ride a mile under twenty minutes, and in spite of the heavy nature of the ground he justified his backer's prediction by completing the task, amidst enthusiastic cheering, in 18min., 38sec.

On the 25th ult. Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by auction at the offices of the Public Works Department several lots of Crown land. Hunghom Inland Lots Nos. 230 and 231 were bought by Mr. D. H. Silas, the former for \$5,100 (upset \$4,275) and the latter for \$20 above the upset, which was \$4,275. The contents in square feet were 7,125 each. Hunghom Inland Lots Nos. 232, 233, and 234 were bought by Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, for the Land Investment Company, in each case for \$20 above the upset, the upset being \$4,275, \$4,275, and \$12,440. The contents in square feet were 7,125, 7,125, and 2,734. Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1124, situate at Fuk Tsun Heung, fetched 47½ cents per foot, the price being \$1,900 (upset \$800). Contents in square feet, 4,000. Li A Ping and Li Chung Shiu were the purchasers.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai ...	—	—
Amoy	573,270	457,760
Foochow	11,244,976	16,174,605
Canton	—	—
	11,818,246	16,632,365

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
Shanghai	—	—
Amoy	16,063,901	12,345,300
Foochow	11,308,831	9,851,272
	27,372,732	21,696,572

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1899-1900	1898-99
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	35,474,308	25,478,107

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1900-1	1899-00
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,535,113	26,039,571
Kobe	12,185,183	13,675,452
	36,720,296	39,715,023

SILK.

CANTON, 16th February.—Tsateles.—No settlements have been reported during the fortnight. Re-reels.—30 bales of Re-reels No. 1 Grant are said to have been sold at \$600 to \$595, and there are rumours of considerable contracts made for shipment June to September, but no particulars have transpired. Filatures.—Have been in good enquiry, and settlements would have been more important if the rise in Exchange and the difficulty of buying, owing to the parsimony of good lots, had not restricted business. From prices paid we quote the following quotations:—\$755 for Miu King Lun 11/13, \$745 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$735 for Kun Wa Lun 11/13, \$725 for Kwong Shun Ching and Hau King Sing 11/13, Wing Shing Lun, Wing Wo Lun and Yee Wo Loong 9/11, \$720 for Kwong Yuen On 9/11, \$710 for King Lun Tai 9/11 and Hau King Sing 13/15, \$700 for Kum Lun Tai 11/13 and 13/15, Kwong Lun Hing, King Wo Shun Kee 11/13 and Kwong Wo Tai 13/15, \$690 for Shun Kee, Meen Cheong, Kwong King Yuen, Kwong Hing Lun 11/13, Kwong Ho 13/15 and King Shing's Gold Lion 16/18, \$680 for Miu Wo Cheong and Mei Lun Hing 10/12, and Kwong Sing 13/15, \$675 for Kum King Cheong, Kum Lun Cheong and Po Cheong Wo 10/12, \$670 for Wing Kut Cheong, Kwai King Lun and Kwong King Loong 10/12, Po Lun Cheong and Lai Sang Wo 11/13, \$655 for Hip Sing Cheong 11/13 and Wong Yuk Kee 16/12, \$650 for King Lun Sang 13/15 and Wing Ching Cheong 16/20, King Cheong Loong and King Lun Sang 11/13, \$635 for Yee Wo Lun, King Yuen, Socy Wo Cheong, Tung Hing and Quan Hing 11/13, \$610 to \$600 for Good No. 3 13/15 and \$585 to \$575 for Good No. 3 14/18. Short-reels.—Have been in better enquiry, and from prices paid the following may be quoted:—\$710 for Hau King Sing and Hau King Lon 14/16, \$700 for Kwong Wo Hing 14/16, \$680 for Kwong Shun Tai and Kwong Wo Tai 14/16, \$670 for Wing Kut Cheong and Kwong Lun 14/16, \$650 for King Lun Cheong 14/16, \$640 for Yut Cheong Wo and Cheong Lun 14/16. Waste.—Market quiet and prices firm. Appended are quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons, Exchange 4 months' slight, 2'0⁰/₁₀, and Res. 2.58 per Dollar:—

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	41,273	62,724
Yokohama	15,201	15,167
	56,474	78,891

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1900-1901 bales.	1899-00 bales.
Shanghai	5,308	15,659
Yokohama	14,105	24,682
	19,413	40,341

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Still no arrivals.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Prices are high, the market having just opened. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.35 to \$8.40 per cwt.
do. " 2, White..... 7.35 to 7.40 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown ... 5.55 to 5.60 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.35 to 5.40 "
Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.25 to 8.30 "
do. " 1, White..... 7.30 to 7.35 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown ... 5.45 to 5.55 "
do. " 2, Brown ... 5.25 to 5.30 "
Foochow Sugar Candy12.35 to 12.40 "
Shekloong "11.55 to 11.60 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Prometheus*, sailed on the 5th Feb. For London:—800 boxes—16,800 lbs. congou tea, 6,381 bales hemp, 154 bales canes, 24 bales waste silk, 315 casks ginger, 1,442 cases ginger, 100 cases P. L. fans, 12 cases black-woodware, 12 cases gum, 6 cases gongs, 3 cases cigars, 10 pkgs. hides, 18 pkgs. shells, 34 pkgs. sundries. For Manchester:—1 pkg. P. effects. For Glasgow:—1 case silverware. For London opt. Glasgow:—170 casks ginger. For London opt. Hamburg:—300 cases staranised, 352 bales capes.

Per steamer *Laos*, sailed on the 11th Feb. For Marseilles:—318 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 26 cases silks, 20 bales hair, 23 rolls matting, 10 cases Chinaware, 3 cases curios, 104 pkgs. tea. For Lyons:—163 bales raw silk, 3 cases silks, 5 cases tea. For Havre:—41 rolls matting, 3 cases silks.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 1st March. Malwa. — A small business was done in this drug at an advance of \$10 over last rates. New at \$820, and old at \$830/40.

Bengal.—During the first part of the fortnight rates further hardened and sales were made in Patna at \$932½ and Benares \$952½. Subsequently market became very quiet and for the whole week not a single chest changed hands. We close Patna at \$920, and Benares at \$950, nominal.

Persian.—Good quality drug was sold at \$825. A parcel of superfine fetched \$900 per picul.

	STOCK.
Patna.....	1,158
Benares.....	189
Malwa.....	805½
Persian.....	2,759½

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—With a slight decline, small sales were made, closing quiet. Stock, about 3,500 bales.

Bombay,	21.00 to 22.00 picul
Bengal (New), Rangoon, }	22.00 to 23.25 "
and Dacca,	"
Shanghai and Japanese, ...	24.00 to 25.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo,	24.00 to 25.00 "
Sale: 700 bales.	

YARN.

Mr. P. Eduljee says in his Report, dated Hongkong, March 1st.—The market has not yet opened, but the bulk of sales reported below may be considered as "complimentary" for New Year settlements and are no criterion of the market. The outlook, however, is far from encouraging, and in repeating our late quotations we must mention that they are more or less unsteady and irregular. The turn that the next week or two will bring forth is looked forward to with anxiety by both importers and buyers, as on it depend in a great measure the future tone of the market and the readjustment of values.

Local Manufacture.—There is no change in local Mill quotations, which are still maintained at \$90 for No. 12s., and \$96 for No. 16s.

Japanese Yarn.—There has been some movement in these threads, and sales of 50 bales No. 20s., Yellow Joss, at \$108 and of 300 bales Settsu No. 20. at \$109 are reported, the market closing steady.

Raw Cotton.—The market has been quiet, and business continues to drag. Supplies of Indian descriptions are far in excess of requirements and our stocks are heavily augmented. The business of the interval amounts only to about 400 bales best machine-ginned Bengal at from \$23 to \$22½, leaving an unsold stock of about 5,500 bales, for which buyers are anxiously looked for and for which a concession of 25 to 50 cents per picul might be obtained. Quotations are:—Indian \$18 to \$23, Rangoon \$17 to \$22½, and China \$23 to \$25.

Exchange on India has continued steady and closes to-day at Rs. 149½ for T/T and Rs. 149½ for Post. On Shanghai 72½ and on Yokohama at 1½ per cent. discount.

The under-noted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai for the fortnight ending 25th ultimo, viz:—

Indian.—Total sales 6,109 bales, comprising 1,452 bales No. 20s., 1,104 bales No. 16s., 225 bales No. 12s., 3,292 bales No. 10s., and 36 bales No. 6s., prices showing an advance of half to one Tael and market closing strong. Estimated unsold stock about 28,000 bales.

Japanese.—Only a small business has been done in these threads owing to the paucity of supplies, some 1,650 bales changing hands on the basis of Tls. 80 to 81 for No. 16s., and Tls. 82½ to 83½ for No. 20s., prices showing a slight advance of half a Tael and market closing firm.

Local.—Total sales about 3,000 bales, on the basis of Tls. 68 to 72½ for No. 10s., Tls. 74 to 78 for No. 14s., and Tls. 78½ to 79½ for No. 16s.

COALS.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—

Cardiff.....	\$29.00 sellers ex ship
Australian	\$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal
Yubari Lump.....	\$11.00 ex godown, nominal
Miiki Lump	\$10.
Moji Lump	\$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady

Hongay double }	10.50 ex godown
screened	"
Hongay Lump.....	8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust	5.50 "
Briquettes.....	14.50 ex godown

} nominal.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—There have been no demands from the mainland, and prices are going downward. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.75 to 2.80
" Round, Good quality	2.95 to 3.00
" Long	3.05 to 3.10
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.95 to 3.00
" Garden, " No. 1	3.15 to 3.20
" White.....	3.70 to 3.75
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 100 bales No. 6 at \$76 to \$76.50, 150 bales No. 8 at \$83, 800 bales No. 10 at \$80 to \$90, 600 bales No. 12 at \$89.50 to \$93, 100 bales No. 16 at \$96 to \$97, 850 bales No. 20 at \$99 to \$102.50. Grey Shirtings: 500 pieces 10 lbs. 3 Butterflies at \$4.55, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Palm Trees at \$4.67½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.25, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$4.35, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Imperial Horse at \$4.10, 1,800 pieces 8½ lbs. Urn at \$3.35, 1,000 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$4.42½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Kan Kun at \$4.45. White Shirtings: 500 pieces No. 800 at \$4.12½, 250 pieces C. at \$6.62½, 250 pieces No. 600 at \$5.20, 500 pieces No. 600 at \$4.10, 500 pieces X 9 at \$5.60, 50 pieces X A at \$5.05. Drills: 225 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$6.55, 225 pieces 14 lbs. Feelong at \$4.80, 150 pieces 14 lbs. Cock Fight at \$3.95. Long Ells: 125 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet Stag at \$6.90, 125 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet Stag at \$6.90, 125 pieces 8 lbs. Purple and Green at \$7.25, 125 pieces 8 lbs. Purple and Green at \$7.25. Mexicans: 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. W. at \$3.27½, 1,200 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter Stag at \$3.42½, 750 pieces 32 Cobbler at \$2.67½. Victoria Lawns: 2,000 pieces Red Lion at \$1.07½. Camlet Scarlet: 100 pieces 9 Birds at \$12, 100 pieces Dog and Bird at \$11.75 to arrive.

METALS.—Quicksilver: 50 flasks at \$173, 50 flasks at \$166.80 to arrive. Yellow Metal: 45 cases 10.4 oz. sheathings at \$42 to arrive, 30 cases 14.16 oz. sheathings at \$40.85 to arrive, 90 cases sheets, Nos. 10 to 14, N. M., at \$42.50 to arrive. Steel Plate Cuttings: 2,520 piculs at \$3.37½.

COTTON YARN—	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$78.00 to \$111.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.15 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.40 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.	2.90 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 "	3.25 to 4.05
64 to 66 "	4.30 to 5.55
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.90
Book-folds.....	4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.75 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ")	2.00 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 ")	1.95 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 ")	2.85 to 3.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	4.25 to 7.10

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.55 to 5.00
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Brocades—Dyed	to —
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Chintzes—Assorted	per yard
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.08½ to 0.17
Velveteens—18 in.	0.22½ to 0.60

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	per dozen
0.36 to 2.50	

WOOLENS—	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 2.50

Long Ells—Scarlet.....	per piece
Assorted.....	6.40 to 10.00

Camlets—Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	12.50 to 32.00
Assorted }	8.00 to 20.00

Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
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Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	per pair
4.00 to 18.00	

METALS—	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.25 to —

Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.)	4.25 to —
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Swedish Bar	7.50	to	—
Small Round Rod	4.75	to	—
Hoop 1 to 1 1/2 in.	5.00	to	—
Wire 15/25	8.50	to	—
Old Wire Rope	2.50	to	—
Lead, L.B. & Co. and Hole Chop	10.25	to	—
Australian	10.00	to	—
Yellow M'tal—Muntz. 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
Vivian's. 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
Elliot's. 14/20 oz.	41.00	to	—
New Chops. 14/20 oz.	—	to	—
Composition Nails	65.00	to	—
Japan Copper, Slabs	43.00	to	—
Tin	69.00	to	—
per box.			
Tin-Plates	7.00	to	—
per cwt. case			
Steel 1/2 to 1	5.50	to	—

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Our last report was dated the 22nd ultimo. The Race holidays have intervened, but in spite of this fact a very fair business has been transacted during the period under review, rates generally being well maintained, whilst in some instances, notably Banks and Docks, material advances have to be recorded.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have continued in demand, and sales cash have been effected at various rates up to 350 per cent. premium, at which the market closes with further buyers. On time sales have been made mainly for March and at prices ranging up to 350 per cent. premium. In Nationals the purchase is unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions continue in request at \$250. Yangtszes have been placed at \$124 and further business might be done at this figure. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCES.—In Hongkong's business has been done at \$314 and \$315, the market closing quiet at the latter rate. China Fires are on offer at \$84.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have continued quiet during the interval and are now on offer at \$344. Indos have been placed at \$117 cash, at which the market closes with further sellers. Douglasses have improved to \$48, at which sales have been effected, and there are further buyers at this price. China Manilas and Star Ferries have buyers at quotations. Shell Transports are on offer at £3. 5s. 0d.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have advanced rapidly, and \$136 is now offered for this stock without finding sellers. Luzons unchanged.

MINING.—Jelebus are on offer at \$54, a decline of 5 cents, and Raubs have weakened to \$38 sellers. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been in active demand, and sales at rapidly rising rates up to 650 per cent. premium ex the dividend of 24 per cent. paid on the 26th ultimo, have been effected, the market closing firm at this figure. Kowloon Wharves have again come into favour and are wanted at \$94. Wanchais have buyers at \$63.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been in fair request and sales have been effected at \$199 and \$200 cash, but the market closes with a few small sellers at the former rate. On time shares have been placed at \$205 for April, \$206 and \$207 for May, and at \$2.9 for June. At the latter rate there are further buyers. Hongkong Hotels have been placed at \$123 1/2 and \$124, the market closing with sellers at the latter rate. Humphreys Estates have weakened to \$121, at which there are sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—Stocks under this heading have been neglected, and we have no change to record in our quotations.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Cements have been placed in moderate quantities at \$20, at which rate further shares are obtainable. Watsons have been done at \$16 1/2 and there is a probability that more could be placed at this figure. Electrics (old) have found buyers at \$12 1/2, and the new shares are wanted at \$6 1/2. Ropes are quiet at \$167 1/2. Tramways are still in request at \$200 without finding sellers. Other stocks under this heading are unchanged.

MEMOS.—Ordinary yearly meeting Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. on 6th instant.

Ordinary yearly meeting China Fire Insurance Co. on 7th instant. Ordinary yearly meeting National Bank on 9th instant. Ordinary yearly meeting Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co. on 9th instant.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	350 p. ct. prem. = \$562 1/2, buyers (London, £61. 10s. cum div.)
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Foun. Shares	£1	\$15, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1, buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$20	20, nominal
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 1/2, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$136, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 45.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 60.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325.
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50.
Hongkong	\$100	\$14, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7 1/2.
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55.
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$20, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$55.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$118, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$12 1/2, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$5	\$6.75, buyers
Hk. Steam Water boat Co., Ltd.	\$100	\$200, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$124, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$165, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$94, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$167 1/2.
H. & W. Dock	\$125	650 p. ct. prem. = \$937 1/2, ex div.
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$250.
China Fire	\$20	\$84, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$55, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$315.
North China	£25	Tls. 180, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$1.
Union	\$50	\$250, buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$124, sales
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$199, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$12 1/2.
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$27, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$50, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$40, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$315.
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	5 cents
Do. Preference	\$1	40 cents
Jelebu	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	7 cents, buyers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	\$2.30.
Do. B.	\$4 1/2	\$1.25, sellers
Punjom	\$9	\$4 1/2.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20.
Raubs	18	\$38, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$21.
Oriente Hotel, Manila	\$50	\$80, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$70, buyers
China Mutual Pref.	\$20	\$40, buyers
China Ordinary	£10	\$12, buyers
Do.	£5	\$7, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$48, buyers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$34 1/2, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$117, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	£1	£3. 5s. sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$20 1/2, buyers (\$7, sales & buys.)
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$8 1/2, sales
Do.	\$10	\$20.
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 1/2	\$63, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$12.10, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16 1/2, sales
Universal Trading Co., Ltd.	\$5	\$5 1/2, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited	\$500	\$1,700, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$900
Hensiana, Limited	\$100	\$105, sellers
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$700, sellers

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 1st March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.51 1/2
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.57
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.04 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	48 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	49 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149 1/2
Bank, on demand	149 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	149 1/2
Bank, on demand	149 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	73 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	119 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	61
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.95
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	51.75
BAR SILVER per oz.	28 1/2

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 1st March.—Since last report there have been lower settlements to advise owing principally to the almost total cessation of business during the Chinese New Year holidays. At the close there is a much firmer tone and rates coastwise are higher.

From Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul for medium sized tonnage is offered. To Java 37 cents is obtainable for prompt tonnage. To the Philippines there is a moderate demand at 36 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to Hongkong, 32 cents inside the bar and 27 cents outside, has been paid and further small carriers could be placed.

Coal freights continue weak. Moji to this, \$2. To Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Sailing tonnage.—The American ship *Saint Paul*, 1,824 tons register, proceeds to Newcastle to load for Manila under orders from owners.

The following are the settlements:—

St. Paul—American ship, 1,824 tons, proceeds to Newcastle, N.S.W., to load for Manila.

Dagmar—German steamer, 921 tons, Kuchinotzu to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Katic—Russian steamer, 1,322 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.

Amara—British steamer, 1,566 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Triton—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 20 cents per picul.

Deuteros—German steamer, 1,001 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 20 cents per picul.

Trym—German steamer, 710 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 21 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 704 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 21 cents per picul.

Taile—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 21 1/2 cents per picul.

Taicheong—German steamer, 939 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Marie Jensen—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 35 cents per picul.

Paz—Belgian steamer, 1,092 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 36 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 32 and 27 cents per picul.

Elsa—German steamer, 1,692 tons, monthly, 6/6 months, \$11,500 per month.

Benlari—British steamer, 1,453 tons, monthly, 3/3 months, \$10,000 per month.

Hansa—German steamer, 1,201 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$9,000 per month.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Parramatta (str.), Izion (str.), Malacca (str.), Deucalion (str.), Stentor (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.).

FOR LIVERPOOL.—Patroclus (str.).

FOR MARSEILLES.—Tonkin (str.), Kawachi Maru (str.), Annam (str.).

FOR BREMEN.—Kiautschou (str.), Freiburg (str.).

FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Bamberg (str.), Sibiria (str.), Freiburg (str.), Marburg (str.), Savoia (str.).

FOR VICTORIA, B.C.—Tacoma (str.), Empress of Japan (str.).

FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of Japan (str.).

FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), China (str.).

FOR NEW YORK.—Albenga (str.), Polmina (str.).

FOR PORTLAND, O.—Eva (str.).

FOR SAN DIEGO.—Strathgyle (str.).

FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—Lightning (str.).

FOR STRAITS, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—Mazagon (str.).

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE AND COLOMBO.—Hirshima Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

February—

ARRIVALS.

22. H. H. Meier, German trspt., from Colombo.
22. Salahadj, Dutch str., from Singapore.
23. Braemar, British str., from Moji.
23. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
23. Mercur, German schooner, from Yap.
23. Hertha, German cruiser, from Kiaochou.
23. China, German str., from Saigon.
23. Kong Beng, German str., from Singapore.
24. Eridan, French str., from Yokohama.
24. Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
24. Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
24. Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
24. Marburg, German str., from Hamburg.
24. Miike Maru, Japanese str., from Bombay.
24. Hattie C. Smith, American sch., from Yap.
24. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
25. Annam, French str., from Marseilles.
25. Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
25. Hong Bee, British str., from Singapore.
25. Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
25. Glenogle, British str., from Shanghai.
26. Fushun, British str., from Canton.
26. Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
26. Diamante, British str., from Manila.
26. Haiching, British str., from Foochow.
26. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
26. Folmina, Dutch str., from Foochow.
26. Kelvindale, British str., from New York.
26. Pakshan, British str., from Saigon.
26. Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Swatow.
27. Hinsang, British str., from Sourabaya.
27. Idomeneus, British str., from Liverpool.
27. Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.
27. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
27. Szechuen, British str., from Canton.
27. Kwangse, British str., from Canton.
27. Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
27. Chingping, German str., from Canton.
28. Benlmond, British str., from Moji.
28. Parramatta, British str., from Shanghai.
28. Wosang, British str., from Canton.

March—

1. Bombay, British str., from Singapore.
1. Hainan, German str., from Chefoo.
1. Thales, British str., from Swatow.
1. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
1. Moravia, Austrian str., from Kobe.
1. Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
1. Kingsing, British str., from Canton.
1. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.

February—

DEPARTURES.

23. Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
23. Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
23. Thales, British str., for Swatow.
23. Hoihow, British str., for Canton.
23. Chingping, German str., for Canton.
23. Stentor, British str., for Shanghai.
23. Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
23. Salahadj, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
23. Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
23. Kasuga Maru, Jap. str., for Sydney.

24. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.

24. Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.

24. Formosa, British str., for Swatow.

24. Glenturret, British str., for Manila.

24. Maidzura Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.

24. Clara, German str., for Hoihow.

24. Tailee, German str., for Saigon.

24. J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.

24. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.

25. Eridan, French str., for Europe.

25. Hating, French str., for Kwongchow-wan.

25. Brooklyn, U.S. flagship, for Shanghai.

25. Annam, French str., for Shanghai.

26. Vipere, French gunboat, for Saigon.

26. H. H. Meier, German trspt., for Tsingtau.

26. Tyr, Norwegian str., for Kobe.

26. Miike Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.

26. Toonau, Amr. str., for Shanghai.

26. Mausang, British str., for Sandakan.

26. Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.

26. Taisang, British str., for Swatow.

27. Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.

27. Yuensang, British str., for Manila.

27. Thales, British str., for Swatow.

27. Eastern, British str., for Sydney.

27. Tritos, German str., for Saigon.

27. Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.

27. Elita Nossack, German str., for Bangkok.

28. Haiching, British str., for Swatow.

28. Canton, British str., for Swatow.

28. Sishan, British str., for Amoy.

28. Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Shanghai.

28. Kwangse, British str., for Shanghai.

28. Fushun, British str., for Shanghai.

28. Szechuen, British str., for Ningpo.

28. Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.

28. Mongkut, German str., for Swatow.

28. Lyeemooon, German str., for Shanghai.

28. Wongkoi, German str., for Yap.

March—

1. Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.

1. Marburg, German str., for Yokohama.

1. Gwalior, British trspt., for Shanghai.

1. Tsingtau, German str., for Bangkok.

1. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.

1. Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.

1. Kingsing, British str., for Swatow.

1. Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Haiphong.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Yuensang, from Manila, Messrs. A. H. Pollard, I. Waldhausen, I. Hant, F. Bobo, and B. Bolen.

Per Airlie, from Sydney, &c., Misses J. Rankin Wilson, M. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Rogers, Dr. Shepherd, Mr. W. J. Strawbridge, Miss L. Bacilli, Mr. Cetunema, Mrs. Natsim, Messrs. A. E. Richard, A. Phillips, F. S. Smith, P. Reyes and J. Goddard.

Per Kaifong, from Iloilo, Messrs. H. Burton and F. Jalondoni.

Per Esmeralda, from Manila, Mesdames Blanchard, Brooks and Stephenson, Messrs. Powers, Cobbau, Lohman, Lawn and Chambers.

Per Eridan, from Shanghai, for Hongkong, Mr. D. Landale, Mr. and Mrs. Maitland, Messrs. Jeannot and J. E. Riley; for Marseilles, Messrs. Annet and Raitag; from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Rev. Ferrand and Mrs. de Liege; from Nagasaki, for Hongkong, Mrs. Rothmann and child, Mr. and Miss Monset; for Port Said, Mr. Sokoloff; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Tieffenbach, Mr. and Mrs. Sablotzky and child and Mr. Pasquier.

Per Lightning, from Calcutta, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Milner, Misses A. Rosamond, G. Rosamond, D. A. Rosamond and Mrs. Joseph.

Per Eastern, from Kobe, &c., Mr. and Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Stead, Miss Dickinson, Messrs. W. R. Dickinson, W. R. Cruickshank, Hardy, D. Molloy, S. Ryan and H. Collers.

Per Annam, for Hongkong, from Batavia, Messrs. A. J. Ross and Boschard; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Wise and Mr. Quandt; from Singapore, Messrs. Horsey, H. M. Blyth, Tokey and E. Johns; from Saigon, Mr. Lutz, Dr. Artif, Messrs. Michel and Henry.

Per Diamante, from Manila, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Dean, Messrs. Fourier, Hieg, Leecher, E. Ignacio, and M. Carreon.

Per Thales, from Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Richardson and child, Messrs. Porter, Smyth, Wandres and Engelbrecht.

Per Haiching, from Foochow, &c., Rev. and Mrs. Geo. Hubbard and five children, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Rev. E. A. Bunberg, Miss M. Macgowan, Messrs. Symes, H. S. Meggitt, D. M. Sanger and Dr. H. G. Johnson.

DEPARTED.

Per Perla, for Manila, Mrs. M. McClean, Messrs. E. S. Newman, Sr., E. S. Newman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Fortune, Mr. Jose I. Paur, Han Hing Co., Messrs. J. W. Moore, C. S. Edwards and J. Rodger.

Per Bayern, for Shanghai, Messrs. W. S. Brown, A. von Holtzendorff, W. V. Janson, J. E. Nahh, F. Necolai, Fescher K. Oldorp and General-Director and Mrs. Ballin, Inspector Witt, Messrs. F. Dominguez, L. C. Chamberlain, W. S. Furlong, C. Ludwig, A. Cameron, C. Rayner, E. C. Maehle, C. Haufurann, G. S. Simons, L. Witt, W. Inman, H. E. Hobson, J. Monbaner, K. Buts, Fletcher and Dr. H. R. Macaubey and Mrs. Reynolds; for Nagasaki, Messrs. H. Smith, F. Orage and A. Walker; for Yokohama, Messrs. H. Bald, Thos. Cook, E. C. Rogers, A. W. Anderson, F. Haller and Mr. and Mrs. R. Macauley.

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Per Kasuga Maru, for Australia, Mr. Arthur Shrick, Dr. T. A. Hynes, Messrs. John A. Glin, K. Nakamura, N. Morita, A. H. Shiebitz, W. H. Mitchell, W. A. Daland, A. J. Barron, Wm. A. Plamondon, Mrs. E. M. Elliot, Mr. H. B. Darnell, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Hopkins, Miss Carlson, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Young, Messrs. Prouditt, J. V. Crieghton, Capt. E. Shimotaira, Mr. and Mrs. Hirasuna, Mr. Y. Akimoto, Capt. J. B. Carpenter, Mr. and Mrs. Casey, Messrs. F. Kulka, H. P. Wadman, K. Nishiki, Dr. J. W. Ames and Mr. John Peel.

Per Sado Maru, for Europe, Messrs. K. Yabe, K. Naito, Geo. Carter, O. Yakote, Major I. Sasaki, Capt. S. Nagao, Major A. Kawamura, Capt. G. Jiohoje, Capt. S. Kojima, Mr. R. D. Gattlieb, Madame Magery, Messrs. J. Kawai, S. Kawazu, S. Hachiya, M. Kordzumi, G. Tsuboi, K. Hayashi, K. Takaoka, S. Amamiya, S. Inoko, S. Tani, S. Kawara, K. Iwane, H. Ohtani, C. H. Best, P. Bonici, Levitoff, Carl Plate and G. Tasaki.

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Per Eridan, for Saigon, Mr. H. M. S. Man, Mrs. and Miss Mentvenoux, Miss Rapp and Rev. B. L. Arvienx; for Marseilles, Lieut. Tonnelier, Messrs. L. Lanne, C. Vogl, P. Le Bars, J. Houarns, Quemener, F. Saget, A. Beandoin, J. M. Page, J. J. Moal, R. Simons, H. Caloine, J. L. Noan and A. Mercier.

Per Annam, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ellan, Messrs. Cochins, O. O. Raphael, A. E. Ridsdale, Hagbers, J. Hunt, O. Disson, A. E. Richards, T. M. Lago, M. B. Garcia, Nicolas, M. J. Jeffries, Tanaka, Kisimoto, T. Nisbet, Bros. Antonin and L. Michel; for Nagasaki, Major J. Wheeler, Jr. (U.S.A.); for Kobe, Mrs. McVeagh, Miss Doonah, Messrs. E. McVeagh and E. Ito; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. H. Bentinck and Miss Downes.

Per Yuensang, for Manila, Mrs. Belle Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. S. Milano, Mr. and Mrs. O. Niguchi, Mr. and Mrs. S. Yamamoto and Miss Isune Yamamoto.

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NEW PRAYA RECLAMATION SCHEME.

(Daily Press, 4th March.)

It is now fourteen years since the Hon. C. P. CHATER submitted to H.E. the Officer then Administering the Government at Hongkong a project for the reclamation of the foreshore, extending from the Gas Works near West Point to the Swimming Bath at Government Wharf. This scheme, the successful results of which are so familiar to us, was most bitterly opposed at the time, largely owing to a misconception of the motives which actuated it, and partly no doubt to the novelty of the idea at that time. But since 1887, we have learnt much and nothing more thoroughly than the urgency of more space, more accommodation for our ever growing population. It is true that even in July, 1887, Mr. CHATER was already writing: "In Hongkong land has now attained such high values, in consequence of the increased prosperity of the Colony and the influx of population, that it is found remunerative even to reclaim sites from the sea at great expense to the owner." But if population and high rents were pressing heavily on the Colony then, they are pressing far more heavily now. Throughout last year complaints were constantly, we might say without exaggeration daily, heard of the difficulty of living for the poorer classes in Hongkong, the enormous rise of rents, and the actual lack of any house or room accommodation within easy reach of the centre of business. How well founded were such complaints no one with any experience of Hongkong can fail to see. We have urged repeatedly the necessity for more accommodation for the working classes at no great distance from their work. Now the space at the disposal of the inhabitants of this island is limited. Additional living-space can only be obtained in certain definite ways. We may either bring the present outskirts of the city into closer connection with the centre by some method of traction; or we may add to the habitable part of the island by levelling inland and reclaiming from the sea; or, better still, we may combine the two plans. Mr. CHATER's scheme is to add to our available ground a strip of land 520 feet wide, commencing from Arsenal Street and continuous with the outer line of the Naval Yard and Arsenal extension and running eastwards to the East Point Sugar Refinery. It also involved originally the cutting down of Morrison Hill and Mount Shadwell, to which the Government found itself unable to accede; in default of these elevations Mr. CHATER has proposed the levelling of Leighton Hill and Mount Caroline, which the Government thinks may possibly be done. It is unnecessary to point out to those who saw the construction of the existing Praya extension how much money and labour is to be saved by having the materials for filling up the area to be reclaimed close at hand, instead of having as before to bring them by a tedious process from Kowloon. It is therefore to be hoped that no unforeseen difficulty will arise in the case of Leighton Hill and Mount Caroline, whose removal, moreover, will add still more to the land available for building purposes. Morrison Hill and Mount Shadwell are more conveniently situated for the use to which Mr. CHATER proposed to put them, but since the objections of the Naval authorities appear to have been insuperable, the two substitutes proposed are the best available, and, provided that the natural corollary of the present scheme, a tramway running to the centre of the city, follows,

they will be brought sufficiently near to serve the purpose of providing homes for the working classes.

(Daily Press, 5th March.)

The new Praya Reclamation scheme, as modified in the letter of the Colonial Secretary of the 12th ult., provides, as we have seen, for an addition to the available land of this Colony of a strip of ground 520 feet wide and stretching from the Naval Yard to the Sugar Refinery at East Point, up to which limit it may be looked on, we think, as the final reclamation scheme. In front of the existing sea-face, from the Arsenal down to Messrs. JARDINE's premises, there will be firstly an addition to the present Praya, making it up to 75 feet broad; secondly, a space, 120 feet deep, for the construction of Chinese houses; thirdly, a new road, 75 feet wide; fourthly, a strip of land, 225 feet deep, for godowns; and lastly, a new Eastern Praya, 75 feet deep. In addition to this, there may be a space cleared and levelled inland, on the site of the present Leighton Hill and Mount Caroline, on which may be constructed additional dwellings. The whole of the works, including the removal and re-erection of piers, and the extension formation, sewerage, and channelling of the proposed new streets and new Praya wall and roadway, except on such portions of the foreshore as are situated in front of the Government properties, will be carried out by the Public Works Department at the cost of the Marine Lot owners; and the Government will not be called on to incur any expense at all, other than such as is involved, on account of the wall and reclamation in front of Government properties. Mr. CHATER's services as intermediary between the Government and the Marine Lot holders are accepted, and what he has to do is to persuade the latter to agree to the Government's demands. These are briefly that the holders shall constitute a general fund for defraying the cost of the works and shall bind themselves individually to take up whatever part is allotted to them of the general reclamation, each depositing as a guarantee 25 per cent. of the total value of the General Fund, which 25 per cent. will be forfeited to the Crown in event of a failure to take up the allotment. On the completion of the works, each holder will be asked to take out a Crown Lease for his allotment, paying an Annual Crown Rent of \$200 per quarter acre. The leases will be for 99 years, with an option of renewal at a Crown Rent fixed by the Governor for the time being for a further term of 99 years. All costs of resumptions of land and compensations to landowners involved in the scheme will be paid by the Marine Lot owners. It is held that a premium of at least twenty-five cents a square foot should be paid to Government by holders for every foot of building land reclaimed and handed over to them. Finally the principle of sectional reclamation adopted in the case of the Western Praya reclamation will be followed, and the Lot holders will bear the expenses of a preliminary survey and estimate.

From the above it will be seen that the Government strikes a good bargain, for the gain in rateable area and future land sales will be very large indeed, and the expenditure will be nil. But the Marine Lot holders, too, having past history to guide them, and the ever increasing prosperity of the Colony to encourage them for the future, have little reason to hesitate. In the report, published this year and now to hand, of Hongkong in 1899, H.E. the Governor's concluding sentence will meet with general agreement. Sir HENRY BLAKE

says: "The general condition of the Colony is most flourishing, and, with the command of cheap labour, it gives promise of development into a great manufacturing centre." There is a certainty that whatever land can be added to the island in close proximity to the centre of the Colony's activity must have a constantly mounting value as time goes on. With the restoration of peace in the Chinese Empire and the establishment of commercial facilities hitherto denied to foreigners, the volume of trade flowing toward Hongkong cannot but increase enormously. As matters stand now, we are not prepared to meet this increase by expansion on the island itself. Mr. CHATER sets forth the way in which we can prepare ourselves to do so, and we feel confident that the Marine Lot holders will recognise that in supporting the scheme they will consult at the same time the Colony's interests and their own.

THE POWERS AND MANCHURIA.

(Daily Press, 6th March.)

Affairs in connection with the Russo-Chinese agreement about Manchuria appear to be reaching their climax. The report of the *Times* correspondent at Peking to the journal which he represents indicates that Russia's regular policy is on the point of meeting with its usual reward. By her support, secret and open, given to the Chinese Court after the capture of Peking, and her opposition to the punishment demands of Germany and England, Russia has succeeded in persuading the credulous Chinese rulers that she is a true friend to China. It may well be suspected, moreover, that money has played its part in negotiations, as is usual where officials of the type employed by the reactionary Court are concerned. As to Russia's protestations of disinterestedness and her assurances that she desires no fresh territory, we cannot feel surprised that they are worth nothing. Russian faith is but the modern equivalent of the *Punica fides* of the Roman world; indeed the Carthaginians are wronged by the comparison, for against them we have only the unsupported charges of their enemies. The history of Russia's growth in the Nineteenth Century, on the other hand, is open, and even those who most admire what is really a wonderful series of achievements cannot gloss over the absolute disregard of written and spoken words which accompanied them. But such protests as have from time to time been made have been too feeble to cause more than a smile from the Russian diplomatists. Only in the matter of Kuldja in 1881 did Russia recede from an aggressive position in answer to remonstrances. In the matter of this Manchurian convention the remonstrances, we fear, are likely to be weak, and they will certainly be foolish if the Powers are prepared to see them disregarded. Dr. MORRISON calls them "academic remonstrances," but it appears that Japan at least has had the courage to back up her protest to China with an intimation that she will require an equivalent for any special advantages conceded to Russia. Now the special advantages conceded by the Manchurian convention amount to nothing less than the removal of all Chinese troops from Moukden and Fengtien provinces, the destruction of all military works not in Russian occupation, and the maintenance of a Russian army of occupation "so soon as the Russian Government is satisfied that peace and good order have been restored in the province," i.e., presumably at some date in the Greek Kalends. To one clause in the convention (which we published in our issue of the 29th January) even China is reported to have objected, and that is the seventh, which provides that

there shall be stationed at Moukden a Russian Political Resident exercising general powers of control, to whom full information with respect to any measures of importance must be furnished by the Tartar General. Even Russia's tools among the Chinese apparently resent each open humiliation.

The Governments of Great Britain and Germany have been studiously silent on the subject of Manchuria, and, beyond what indications we have that Lord SALISBURY is prepared to regard Manchuria as outside the terms of the Anglo-German Agreement, have given no sign of how they are likely to face the situation. Japan has made a statement to China, as we have seen. Italy and Austria are waiting upon Germany and Great Britain. The United States, though they are supposed to be among the remonstrators against LI HUNG-CHANG's willingness to yield to Russian pressure, are not free from the suspicion of being ready to acquiesce in Russia taking what she wants if only she undertakes not to interfere with commercial interests. Nor are there wanting those in England who think we can well afford to see Russia permanent mistress of this large province, trusting, it would seem, that the Tsar's Government will reverse its traditional commercial policy in the case of Manchuria. It is impossible to imagine what grounds they have for so thinking, and they have not deigned to state them. The new China League has given an important place in its programme to the maintenance of the full integrity of the Chinese Empire, not excluding Manchuria, but it almost looks as if the League is too late in this respect. Much as we respect the founders of the League and far-sighted and accurate in their views as they appear to us, we fear that they will hardly be able at this stage to make their ideas prevail with the great exponents of the policy of apathy in China, who have neglected British interests for so many years. We would willingly think that the home Government had been enlightened by the course of events since the China-Japan War, were there any convincing signs of such a change. But the *Times*, which should be well informed in such matters, has evidently little faith in the attitude of the Government, and there seems no reason for optimism.

THE CHUCHOW AFFAIR.

(Daily Press, 2nd March.)

The Chuchow case seems at last to have reached a definite stage. After dragging on for months, SHENG and the other Chinese officials who acted on behalf of the Imperial Government calmly announced that they had looked into the matter and had come to the conclusion that the officials who were in prison in Hangchow as accessories to the crime could not in any way be held responsible. During this shuffling and evasion strenuous efforts were being made by the friends of the imprisoned officials to obtain their release. Bribery was freely used, and every nerve was strained to get them free; once free, the rest would be easy, and the threats and remonstrances of the British, in the face of an accomplished fact, might safely be disregarded. Affairs culminated, however, in Consul-General WARREN closing the case as far as he was concerned and leaving it to the Foreign Office to take a strong line or not, as they saw fit. He had pointed out the absolute necessity for strong measures being taken, and the responsibility for adopting or neglecting this advice rested with them. The reply of the Foreign Office does not appear to have been of a very enthusiastic nature, but it has

ultimately been decided that someone—it has not transpired who—is to be executed. A member of the Consular Service is to be deputed to be present at the execution and there is some idea of an escort of British troops being furnished; but on this point there are conflicting ideas, the military authorities being unwilling to risk the possibility of disaster to a small body of men and not having the requisite authority to move the whole of the force at present at their disposal either up to the scene of the outrage or to Hangchow where it is possible reparation, in a restricted and inadequate degree, will be made by the execution of one official—or one coolie. As has been remarked before, it has not transpired who is to be executed, and judging by the past it is quite as likely that our Foreign Office will accept the one coolie in place of insisting on a dozen or more of the officials.

"I return, therefore, and shall return, *ictibus crebris*, to my unwelcome task of hammering for attention to English interests in China." So wrote WINGROVE COOKE to the *Times* in 1857, and it is a curious and significant fact that on two occasions pregnant with issues vital to British interests in China public opinion should have been diverted by other and apparently larger issues. In 1857 the Indian Mutiny overshadowed and absorbed British public interest to the neglect of China; and in 1900 the South African question has acted in a similar way. A recognition of importance of the stake that Britain has in the Far East will come some day. It will be well for her that it does not come too late. To quote again the able writer whose remarks apply to-day equally as well as they did in 1857: "When we have got 'this city of Canton, about the neck of 'which we are now tightening the lasso, we 'must use it for the purpose of preventing 'future wars and establishing a feeling of 'mutual regard between the people of the 'country and ourselves. There is only one 'way in which this can ever be effected. 'We must break down the door of partition. 'If the bureaucracy of China will remain 'in the way, we must walk over it. But we 'must have free and unrestricted intercourse. I do not propose this as an easy 'point to gain. It will require great tact 'and decision in our plenipotentiary to obtain the privilege, and great study and 'foresight to hedge it about with the proper 'securities. You will get nothing till you 'show you are irresistible, and you will 'then get everything you show yourself 'resolved to have. If Lord ELGIN has the 'perspicacity to see and the courage to 'follow this bold safe course, you people at 'home, and especially you men of commerce 'at home, must support him, or he will 'fail. If he has not, you must push him, 'force him, or supersede him; for he will 'deserve to fail, and must fail. This is 'the key to the whole position. Gain 'it, and, in the words of a Chinese 'merchant, with whom I often discussed 'this question, all men will be glad. He 'meant, and I mean, all men except the 'corrupt officials."

Substitute Peking for Canton and Sir ERNEST SATOW for Lord ELGIN, and we have the situation as it stands to-day. It is "you people at home" and "especially you men of commerce at home" who must decide whether in Sir ERNEST SATOW you have a representative who will follow this safe and bold course; whether he will be allowed to do so by the Government, of which you are or should be the controlling factor. Neglect the opportunity now presented to you, and bitter will be your repentance in the years to come.

THE ELLIOTT AND BLONDE INCIDENT.

(Daily Press, 8th March.)

The home papers give a little more information with regard to the Anglo-Russian incident in connection with the Elliott and Blonde Islands. It will be remembered that some Chinese pirates established themselves on these islands toward the end of last year, and made them their headquarters from which to harry and plunder such native craft as they could safely attack. Admiral Sir EDWARD SEYMOUR thereupon despatched a British gunboat, H.M.S. *Plover*, which succeeded in its mission of capturing the pirate junks and putting an end to the nuisance. Thereupon the senior Russian naval officer on the station, Admiral ALEXIEFF, wrote to Admiral SEYMOUR, protesting against the action of the *Plover* and claiming that the Elliott and Blonde Islands were Russian territory. He finally stated that he hoped Admiral SEYMOUR's sense of equity and justice would lead him to see the matter in the same light. To this the British Admiral answered that, although he had been officially informed that Port Arthur and Talienwan had become Russian possessions, he was not aware that this applied to the islands in question. He was therefore unable to coincide with Admiral ALEXIEFF's views, and could only refer the question to his Government. The matter now therefore rests in the hands of the British and Russian Governments. Admiral SEYMOUR in his presentation of the case contends that if the claim were allowed Russia would at once assume possession of the Miao-tao group, which lies much nearer to Port Arthur and extends completely across the Gulf of Pechili. The Elliott and Blonde group lie out in the Korean Bay, some ninety miles away and to the north-east of Port Arthur. What the result of the discussion between London and St. Petersburg is likely to be, it is impossible to forecast. Admiral Seymour's fear about the Miao-tao Islands we need not perhaps make too much of, for their proximity to the coast of Shantung will no doubt render Germany jealous of their integrity. But the position which Russia takes up with regard to the islands cleared of their undesirable residents by H.M.S. *Plover* is significant. The value of the islands themselves may be nothing. The spread of the Government established at Port Arthur and Talienwan not only inland but also over the sea is not to be regarded lightly. A service journal characterises Russia's move as "sheer bluff." No doubt Admiral ALEXIEFF acted as he did with a desire to see how Great Britain would take it. For this reason the incident acquires an importance which it would not otherwise have. The question of the extent of Russia's rule in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur calls for consideration. If only for the sake of avoiding future complications it is eminently desirable that all the world should know whether the Tsar's control does end in the Far East. Its present indefinitely expansive character is a menace to the peace of the world.

A new industry is to be established on the Pacific in the way of breeding horses for China. The matter has been placed in the hands of the Chinese consul at San Francisco, and he, it is said, will select three places on the Pacific coast where horses will be raised for the Chinese trade. The whole enterprise will be managed by Chinese. The farms will be run by Chinamen, with the exception of the overseer, who will be an American. It is not known at present where the locations will be, but Chinamen on the Pacific coast are of the opinion that one will be in Washington.

THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 7th March.)

President McKINLEY in his inauguration message to the Houses of Congress has reaffirmed the intention of the United States to do what they hold to be their duty in the Philippine Islands. The States are determined to maintain their sovereignty in the Archipelago and to guarantee the safety of those who have acquiesced in their rule. In the President's own words, "the United States cannot leave the destiny of loyal millions of Filipinos at the mercy of disloyal thousands." No doubt the Filipinos who have not submitted to American rule will repudiate this comparative estimate of their strength and that of the rest of the islanders. But our Manila correspondent's letters and the columns of our Manila contemporaries show to what an extent other matters have ousted war news from the position it previously held among topics of interest, and it is evident that the insurgents' numbers have dwindled very rapidly of late. During the past few months surrenders of arms and oaths of submission were as frequent as among the Boers at the time when Lord ROBERTS held the South African War to be practically over. Whether the Filipinos are equally as ready to resume their former places in the hostile ranks as were many of the Boers, we cannot say. In most cases they appear to have accepted the inevitable and temporarily settled down side by side with the Americans. It was expected that the defeat of Mr. BRYAN in his campaign for the United States Presidency would stir the irreconcilables among the Filipinos to desperate exertions, but on the contrary pacification seems to have proceeded more rapidly. It is difficult to see how the insurgent leaders propose to revive their cause. The work of the past year has reflected no little credit on the Americans, and the anticipations of sober observers have been fairly realised. It cannot of course be pretended that life under present conditions in the Archipelago is at all like an ideal one or ever particularly desirable. The new occupiers of the Islands have before them a tremendous labour problem, which so far they have declined to solve in the only possible way in such a climate—by the importation of Chinese—and the price of living has reached an extravagant price. The Civil Commission, however, is attempting to establish a permanent system of government, and Major-General MACARTHUR is dealing with the insurgents still in arms. The solution of the living and labour questions must follow with the progress of time. More than ever now does it look as if the complete and permanent pacification of the Archipelago were within appreciable distance of realisation, when the United States will be able to point to the results as the justification of their policy in the Philippine Islands.

Mr. F. Lionel Pratt, one of Reuter's special correspondents up North, and Lieut. Mahon, R.E., found themselves in rather an alarming position the other day at Chingwantao. They were passengers on the steamer Kwang Chi, and while the vessel was blocked in by ice, they determined upon taking a walk over the white expanse. They had proceeded about two miles when the ice became thin and Mr. Pratt fell in the water. He was however rescued by his comrade, who himself became immersed later on with the same result. On their return they found the steamer had gone and they were compelled to remain on the ice till the following morning. Fortunately those on board the Kwang Chi had managed to make the port during the night and thus the famished adventurers were rescued and taken on board.

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 1st March, 9.56 p.m.

The total number of missionaries and their families murdered in China during last year has now been made up to 134 adults and 52 children, whereof 70 adults and 28 children were British, 40 adults and 16 children Swedish, 24 adults and 8 children American.

It is proposed to convert the Legation area at Peking into a huge fortress, forcing the Imperial Maritime Customs, all banks, stores, etc., to remove outside the protected area.

SHANGHAI, 3rd March, 9.48 p.m.

Steamers are going to Tientsin cargoless, the Chinese preferring to await further news.

Prince Chuang is reported to have strangled himself, in what locality it is uncertain.

Viceroy Chang Chi-tung is reported seriously ill.

The bodyguard, provided by Yuan Shikai, of picked men from Shangtung is leaving on Wednesday next for Honan to escort the Emperor on his return to Peking.

SHANGHAI, 5th March, 7.55 p.m.

Nieh Chi-kuei has been appointed Governor of Kiangsu.

Native news is to hand to the effect that General Tung Fuh-siang is furious at Yung Lu's desertion. The Imperial Decree degrading him reached Tung at Lanchow. He instantly ordered his troops to return to Hsianfu, but he was ultimately persuaded to proceed westward, joining Prince Tuan outside Ninghsia.

SHANGHAI, 7th March, 7.4 p.m.

An Imperial Decree just published states that the Boxer chiefs issued many spurious decrees during last summer under the Throne's name.

The Decree orders the Grand Secretaries to collect all decrees between the 20th June and the 14th August and to send them to the Emperor, who cancels them as spurious.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

On Saturday, 2nd inst., at noon, a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held for the purpose of declaring Nos. 9 and 10 Health Districts infected with plague. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary). Mr. Osborne arrived just as the proceedings had terminated.

Dr. CLARK explained that the meeting had been called for the purpose of declaring Health Districts Nos. 9 and 10 infected with bubonic plague. There had been 24 cases of plague since the beginning of the year, two of which had been notified to-day, and there were certain bye-laws which could be put in force only during the prevalence in the Colony of plague, cholera, or small-pox. It was with the view of obtaining the powers of these bye-laws that the meeting had been convened. In District No. 9 there had been 12 cases, and in District No. 10 there had been eight cases, giving twenty cases out of a total for the Colony of 24. He thought the Board would agree with him that, if they did anything at all to meet the plague scourge, they should do it at the commencement of the epidemic. It would mean a considerable addition to the Board's staff and house to house visiting, and, if the epidemic did not abate, they would have to resort to house to house cleansing. He might also say that the health of the community was confronted at

present by a threatened outbreak of small-pox, three cases of which had been reported to-day. All these were in the West and Central districts, and there had been twelve cases altogether since the beginning of the year. The measures, which he proposed they should adopt, would protect the community, he hoped, from a plague epidemic as well as from small-pox.

Dr. BELL, in seconding, said that if anything was to be done in the way of house to house visitation now was the time to do it.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN thought this was a very good step to take before the epidemic really started. He was sure the Medical Officer of Health would give instructions to the search party to be careful.

The motion enabling the Board to enforce bye-laws which may be deemed necessary in the interests of public health was then passed.

On Thursday afternoon, 7th inst., a meeting of the Sanitary Board was held. The President (the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Director of Public Works) occupied the chair, and there were also present Dr. Bell (Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer), Dr. Hartigan, Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. F. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. Chan A Fook, and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (Secretary).

THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON'S REPORT.

The report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. C. V. Ladds) was submitted. The consideration of it had been adjourned from the previous meeting.

Mr. OSBORNE said there were several points in Mr. Ladds' reports, some of which, he thought, they should give attention to, and ask the Government to carry into effect, if not all, at least, some of his proposals. He thought it was due to Mr. Ladds that some more notice should be taken of his reports than it appeared customary to do. It seemed to him that these reports year after year came to them, and went on to the Government, containing very valuable suggestions. The pigeon-hole received them and nothing further was done. Broadly speaking Mr. Ladds had, in the report under notice, made three suggestions. The first of them was in connection with slaughterhouses where, he said, he had asked the Board for two additional inspectors, and that they had not been granted. He (the speaker) thought they should ask the Government to give effect to those suggestions. Then in connection with the Central Market. He had said—if his figures were correct—most conclusively that the present method of lighting was inferior to gas, and very much more expensive. He (Mr. Ladds) had suggested that the market be lighted by gas instead of the very inferior electric lighting now used. He (Mr. Osborne) thought the Board should take notice of that suggestion, and ask the Government either to substitute gas for electricity or to call upon the Electric Company to provide better lighting. Then in regard to the supervision of the markets, Mr. Ladds very rightly considered that the supervision of the food supply of the Colony was of the most vital importance to the health and well-being of the community. He again asked for an additional Inspector, and he referred to a recommendation made by the Hon. F. H. May and himself (Mr. Osborne) in 1898, that the salaries of the Inspectors at Kennedytown and the Inspectors of markets should be increased. What was the use of Mr. Ladds reiterating those suggestions and those remarks, if no further notice was going to be taken of them? There was no doubt that what Mr. Ladds had said in regard to the supervision of the food supply of the Colony, was very true indeed, and he (Mr. Osborne) thought they should back him up and ask the Government to give effect to his suggestions. He therefore begged to propose that the attention of the Government be drawn to those suggestions and that they be asked to give effect to them, more especially as to the effectual supervision of the markets.

Dr. CLARK said he would like to make the suggestion that not only should Mr. Ladds' reports be considered, but all the annual reports which were laid on the Board table. He thought they should be dealt with by a Committee of the Board before they were forwarded to the Government. Any re-

commendations which individual members of the Board should make should be brought forward to that Committee and discussed, and then the whole thing should be sent to the Government with the Committee's report on them. He (the speaker) quite agreed that there were several valuable suggestions in Mr. Ladd's present report, and he thought that the Board should support the recommendations of their officers by going fully into those questions. He would propose that the Board appoint the Committee then and there, for he was quite assured that the recommendations of the Board would have greater weight than the recommendations of any individual officer.

The PRESIDENT thought the suggestion of appointing a Committee was a good one. There were, however, several matters upon which he did not agree with Mr. Ladd. He would suggest that the Committee consist of the Vice President and Mr. Osborne, both of whom had taken great interest in the matter.

On the motion of Mr. OSBORNE, seconded by Dr. CLARK, a Committee was appointed as suggested by the President.

SANITARY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

In his report for the year 1900 Mr. J. J. Bryan (Sanitary Surveyor) said plans had been passed by him during the year for the drainage of 643 houses. The plans of 464 houses were carried forward from 1899, making a total of 1,107 in hand during the year. The drainage of 323 houses had been completed and the plans for 43 cancelled, leaving 741 carried forward to 1901. Notices for repairs or additions to the drainage arrangements of 147 houses are carried forward to 1901. Dealing with the inspection of private drains, the report stated that 163 of these had been opened out and reported on. Notices had been served on the owners of 116 houses, calling upon them to execute the necessary work. The re-drainage of old houses, as stated by Mr. Drury in his report last year, was practically completed. In addition, 5,756 houses had been inspected, and minor defects discovered in 1,889 instances. Nuisances to the number of 282 had been reported to the M.O.H. and 73 to the Hon. D.P.W., to be dealt with by them. During the past year 18 water-closets and 4 urinals were erected in various buildings by permission of the Board, and connected to the sewers. Four water-closets had been removed from other buildings by order of the Board, in consequence of their having been fixed without permission being obtained. Certificates for 320 new houses and two additions were granted during the year, which also saw an extension made to Caroline Hill Cemetery. Dealing with the number of prosecutions instituted during the year, the report stated that 175 summonses had been taken out and convictions obtained in 118 cases, the penalties amounting to \$1,635.

THE USE OF VERANDAHS AS STORE-ROOMS, ETC.

Correspondence was submitted with reference to the use of verandahs as store-rooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc., and the question of partitions in verandahs.

In a letter dated 28th February the Colonial Secretary stated that he had been directed by His Excellency the Governor to transmit for the consideration of the Board a copy of a letter from the Honourable Director of Public Works, dated 5th January, together with its enclosure, and also a minute of the Hon. Attorney-General dated the 26th January, and to point out that though the law in question prohibited the use of verandahs as store-rooms, living rooms, kitchens, etc., it was evident to anyone observing the houses in Queen's Road West that this prohibition had been neglected. His Excellency also wished to obtain the opinion of the Board on the question of partitions in verandahs. It was obvious that verandahs without partitions would decrease the safety and destroy the privacy of houses in a row, and would probably be insanitary, as preventing windows being opened at night, while the argument of the additional facility in case of fire has little weight; for if there were no balconies, it would not be possible to pass from one house into the next.

The letter from the Hon. Director of Public Works said:—"I have the honour to forward copy of a report by Mr. Tooker, the Acting Assistant Director of Public Works, on certain balconies, and request that the Hon. Attorney-

General's opinion may be obtained in the matter. I do not think partitions opposite each party wall form a breach of the Ordinance."

Mr. Tooker's report was as follows:—"Houses have recently been constructed on Marine Lot 117 and Inland Lot 431, Praya East, in connection with which iron balconies were erected over the street. An application was made by Messrs. Leigh and Orange on behalf of the owner for the certificate required by section 53 of Ordinance 15 of 1889. On inspecting the buildings it was found that the balconies were divided up by an iron partition—one opposite each party wall—which appears to me to be a breach of Section 1 of Ordinance 4 of 1888. I therefore, called Messrs. Leigh and Orange's attention to the matter by letter of the 29th inst. Messrs. Leigh and Orange called here, and contended that partitions on verandahs or balconies opposite party walls so as to give each house a private portion of such verandah or balcony, are not contraventions of the said Ordinance. The object of the Ordinance was to secure a free current of air along verandahs and balconies, and to ensure a free passage for firemen all along the buildings in case of fire. Perhaps you would see fit to obtain the Attorney-General's opinion."

The Attorney-General (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman, K.C.) wrote:—

1. "I have already given my opinion as to the law. If the law has not been enforced of late years, it is unfortunate. I am now consolidating the Building Ordinances, and the law should be made quite clear, and if it is to be altered I should be glad to know soon so as to insert any alteration in the Bill.

2. "The real questions are:—(a) Ought partitions opposite party walls to be allowed in verandahs over Crown lands? (b) If so are they to be allowed to go right up from the floor to the verandah above, so as to entirely enclose both ends of the verandah or only for three or four feet from the floor, enough to show the limits of the portion allotted to each house? (c) If allowed to go right up, are they to be readily moveable, or may they be of iron or bricks shutting out any passage of air and all access? On this head the extract from to-day's paper annexed shows how by such partition life may be lost in case of fire.

3. This question should be settled by His Excellency in Executive Council, I think.

4. I observe that when for public convenience any concession is made as to what may be done over Crown land upon certain conditions, that concession is at once accepted and used; the conditions are soon ignored, and the parties benefited assume the attitude of injured parties when called on to comply with the conditions under which the benefit or concession was conferred.

5. My own view is that the law should always be enforced, but if it proves harsh or unreasonable it should be altered and not be allowed to be habitually ignored.

6. In this colony we want all the current of air the width of the streets will afford, and verandahs with partitions all along opposite the party walls of a row of narrow Chinese houses undoubtedly affect the current of air and impede the action of firemen and the escape of inmates in case of fire."

The following minutes were appended:—

Dr. Clark:—"The law prohibits the use of verandahs over Crown land as 'bath-rooms, urinals, water-closets, sleeping apartments, store-rooms, or cook-rooms.' (Ord. 4 of 1888), and during 1900 no less than 81 prosecutions were instituted by me for offences against this law. Seventy-one convictions were obtained and penalties to the amount of \$107 recovered. Twice cases were withdrawn owing to a flaw in the summonses, but a verbal order was made by the magistrate for compliance with the law; in the remaining case the defendant absconded. With regard to the use of verandahs as 'living-rooms,' the law does not specifically prohibit this, and no objection has ever been taken by the department to a table and a chair or two on the verandah. As to the partitions, I think that solid party walls should be allowed to a height of seven feet, so as to secure privacy, and that the rest of the partition should be of iron bars or lattice work, at least two-thirds open."

Dr. Hartigan:—"It will be impossible to prevent the improper use of verandahs by Chi-

nese, so long as verandahs are allowed at all. I agree with the M. O. H. regarding 'partitions.'"

Mr. Osborne:—"Enforce sanitary regulations, but do not start any new crusade in regard to verandahs. The partitioning does no harm and should be allowed. There are many other and greater evils that need our attention."

Mr. Chan A Fook:—"I agree with Mr. Osborne."

Mr. Fung Wa Chun:—"I agree with Mr. Osborne."

The President:—"Discuss at next meeting."

Mr. OSBORNE said that the question of the verandahs was apparently a trivial one, and more or less a mare's nest, but if they stirred in it, and if the Government stirred in it, it would give rise to an immense amount of trouble, and at a time when they least required it. The plague season was approaching, and they would have all their time out; they would need all their energies to combat the outbreak of that scourge during the coming summer. Therefore on those grounds alone, he thought it would be unwise for them to support any new crusade with respect to verandahs in the colony. But, taking the matter on its own merits, if they interfered with the existing customs with reference to verandahs; if they prevented the Chinese from making use of their verandahs, they might just as well prohibit the erection of them altogether, and if they prohibited the erection of them altogether, they would be changing the whole social life of the Chinese in the Colony. They would turn their dwellings, comfortable as they were to-day, into mere barrack rooms, with no comfort at all, and without the slightest privacy. They, as a Sanitary Board, and the Government, had interfered with the privacy of the Chinese, and more especially with Chinese family life, to a very great extent, but it had been done from sheer necessity, and he (Mr. Osborne) maintained that any future steps they undertook for the preservation of the health of the Colony, should be so undertaken with a due regard to the feelings of others, and, among other things, with a regard to the maintenance of the privacy of Chinese family life. Where was the necessity to trouble about the matter at all? The Government said the use of the verandahs was abused. Any one passing along the street could see the existing law was not enforced—it was so absurd. Was it likely that owners of property would go to the enormous expense of putting up verandahs except they were needed and of benefit to them in their home life, and yet it was suggested that they should abolish them altogether throughout the colony. Verandahs were used mainly for the storage of light articles; occasionally for the cooking arrangements of the home, and particularly for sitting out in the cool evening air. There was no harm in any of those things he had mentioned. They were not insanitary, and if they did away with them, they did away with the only little comfort the Chinese had. He believed the idea was to abolish partitions opposite party walls in verandahs, so as to allow a freer circulation of air. That was, he had no doubt, perfectly true, but on the other hand any one who had given the matter the slightest thought would know that, especially in the summer, if they abolished those walls, they would close the windows and the shutters, which were a protection against wind, rain and sun. So that if they did away with the verandahs they would be making the houses more insanitary than they were at the present day. It was far better that the people should take their meals or sleep in their verandahs, than in the rooms behind them—it was much better that they should live in the open air, than exist in the foetid atmosphere of these inner rooms. He thought the Board should recommend to the Government that in no way should these verandahs be interfered with.

Mr. CHAN A FOOK quite concurred in the remarks of the previous speaker. If they wanted to improve the sanitary condition of the Chinese they should be prepared to give them every latitude. It was not in any way expedient to trespass upon their privacy or interfere with the social conditions under which they lived, except, in so far as would be necessary for the general health of the colony. He thought the Government should be asked not to interfere at all in the matter of

the verandahs, especially at the present season, so near the approach of summer.

The Hon. F. H. MAY thought the Medical Officer of Health should alter his minutes so that they should read:—"In future buildings, partitions be allowed to a height of seven feet solid so as to secure privacy, and that the rest of the partition should be of iron bars or lattice work, at least two thirds open." He (Mr. May) did not think the Government wanted to interfere with the Chinese at all.

The PRESIDENT observed that the question had arisen in this way. One of his assistants had found out—rather late in the day, he thought—that the partitions were against the Building Ordinance, and against the law. He (Mr. Ormsby) did not agree with the assistant, and referred the matter to the Attorney-General who entirely supported the assistant's view. It appeared now that for many years the law had been continually broken. Perhaps his (the President's) predecessor was of the same opinion as himself, and thought the partitions were not forbidden. The Legal Adviser to the Government had now stated that the law had laid down one thing and another interpretation had been placed upon it. The Attorney-General's view was that although the requirements of the Ordinance had not been met, yet the law should always be enforced, and at all times if it was harsh or unreasonable it should be altered and not ignored. He thought it would be very hard indeed to compel the owners of properties to build solid party walls in the verandahs—they would much prefer not to have them at all. Take the case of the Hongkong Hotel for instance. There the law had been broken in every storey by the erection of verandahs, and it would be a great hardship if they had to be removed after all these years. He therefore was in favor of the law being enforced, but not with respect to existing buildings.

Dr. HARTIGAN remarked that the Legal Adviser wished to have the privacy preserved and at the same time to secure the free circulation of air. Could not some means be devised to obtain the two combined? Did the President object to the ordinary lath and plaster partition?

The PRESIDENT replied that the lath and plaster partition would cut off the air just the same. Outbreaks of fire in Hongkong were generally confined to one house in consequence of the thick solid party walls, but if they had the ordinary lath and plaster partition there would be nothing to confine the fire, and much greater loss to property would follow.

Dr. BELL opined that if they ran up solid party walls there were no more verandahs. If they looked along the verandahs in the Queen's Road they would see that they were nothing more nor less than living rooms.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN twitted the Board with a sheer waste of time. There had not been any previous objection to the verandahs and nothing against their present use had been urged. Now it appeared that a subordinate officer had been curious enough to find out that all these things were against the law, and there and then a stir was made about it. What had the matter of these verandahs to do with the sanitary condition of the Colony? Nothing, they might rest assured, for if it had the Medical Officer of Health would have found it out long since. If they only allowed the walls seven feet in height the Chinese would have to close up their windows at night, so that instead of them getting more light and air they would be deprived of both.

Dr. BELL said that if the Chinese got their 8 feet of solid wall they would lose their ventilation. He did not care what the custom was he was against it. He had his opinions on the whole thing, and would tell the Government what he thought of it.

Mr. OSBORNE moved as an amendment that the Government be asked not to move in the matter at all.

The PRESIDENT put the amendment to the Board, and it was carried.

THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

Plans for the Victoria Hospital for Women and Children were submitted.

PLAGUE AT THE CAPE AND AT SINGAPORE.

The outbreak of plague in King William Town District, Cape Colony, was reported. Three cases of plague in Singapore between the

22nd and 24th February, 1901, were also reported.

FORTNIGHTLY LIME-WASHING RETURN.

The fortnightly lime-washing return showed that 198 houses had been lime-washed in the Eastern District since the previous report.

THE HEALTH OF THE COLONY.

The death-rate for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended 16th February was 24.6 against 22.4 for the previous week and 24.4 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the succeeding week was 23.6, against 19.6 for the corresponding week last year.

DEATHS IN MACAO.

The deaths in Macao for the week ended 17th February numbered 54, and for the following week 58.

RESIGNATION OF MR. MCKIE.

The PRESIDENT said Mr. McKie had asked permission of His Excellency to resign his seat on the Sanitary Board. He thought they would all regret the absence of Mr. McKie from their deliberations and from the sub-committees which reported on the back slums of the town.

THE PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY.

The PRESIDENT goes on leave next week, and he observed—Gentlemen: This being the last meeting at which I will have the honour of presiding, I wish before we part to thank you all for your kind assistance, and co-operation with me since I have been President of this Board—Our meetings have been sometimes characterised by warmth, but what of that? It merely shows that we are in earnest back and hold strongly to our opinions—I must say that I have entirely failed to notice that line of demarcation between the officials and the non-officials on this Board which has in some quarters been spoken of, and I think a reference to our divisions would clearly prove that no such difference exists. We can, I think, look back on much good work done during the past 12 months, and I feel no doubt that an improved condition in the sanitation of the Colony is the earnest wish and aim of every member of this Board. In conclusion, gentlemen, I again thank you for your kind consideration during the year we have worked together. (Applause.)

This was all the business.

SECOND OVERTURNING OF THE "CANTON RIVER."

No little excitement was aroused in the Colony on Saturday evening, the 2nd inst., by the news that the dredger *Canton River* had again turned over when her raising seemed practically certain. Owing to the absence of so many from the centre of the city to view the Off Day's sport at Happy Valley the intelligence did not travel so rapidly as it would otherwise have done, and consequently a large number of residents did not hear of the event until Sunday morning. Exaggerated rumours, however, got about, and first six, then five, deaths were reported. The actual facts of the case were as follows.

At noon on Saturday, 2nd inst., it was found that the recent rough weather had damaged some of the canvas, and it was thought that the attempt to raise the *Canton River* must be put off. Nevertheless, the damage was repaired, and the pumping was proceeded with promptly. The stern of the dredger began to lift, and the vessel came in towards the shore. His Excellency the Governor was on board during the operation, and everything appeared satisfactory. At five p.m., however, shortly after His Excellency had left, those who were watching proceedings from the shore, heard a shout of "Heave away," and the dredger was suddenly observed to turn over. In so doing she took with her the raft which was made fast to her and on which the two divers, Brodie and Johnson, were sitting. Steps were immediately taken to recover the two men, and Brodie was brought to the surface much exhausted, and sent at once to the *Tamar*. When the other man was got up, all efforts to restore life were unavailing.

On the accident occurring, Capt. Percy Scott, who was on shore at the time, immediately went over to the dredger, and divers were sent for from H.M.S. *Aurora* and the Dockyard. His Excellency the Governor also hastened down to the scene and was present when the unfortunate man's body was recovered.

The actual cause of the disaster has not yet been discovered, but it is thought that some obstructions prevented the *Canton River* from coming along the bottom as she rose, and that the compartment in which the 9-inch pump was working became suddenly flooded, and so destroyed the buoyancy on that side of the vessel, the opposite compartment remaining tight and giving her an excess of buoyancy on that side, which resulted in her turning over.

In turning over the *Canton River* struck the Government dredger which lay close up, knocking a hole in her bottom. She moved out into deeper water and sank at once. No lives were lost.

We must not omit to mention that every assistance possible was rendered to the two divers, Brodie and Johnson, by Dr. Gibson and Capt. A. W. Bewley, and that Dr. Gibson received an injury to his thumb in removing the mud from Brodie's mouth. Rumours were prevalent on Sunday evening that by the sinking of the Government dredger when the *Canton River* turned over several Chinese workmen lost their lives. These happily have proved unfounded, everyone being accounted for.

We regret to have to record that consequent upon the mishap to the *Canton River* on Saturday last, the diver Brodie, who was progressing favourably up to Thursday, had a relapse early in the morning, and expired a few hours later.

OUTRAGE IN BOWEN ROAD.

EUROPEAN ATTACKED AND ROBBED.

Highway robbery with violence has been of frequent occurrence during the past month or two, the victim in every instance being a Chinaman. The immunity of Europeans from this popular form of outrage is no longer a fact, however. On Sunday afternoon, the 3rd inst., about three o'clock, Mr. F. Esrom, of the Eastern Asiatic Trading Company, who has but recently arrived in the colony, was walking along Bowen Road, when, at a point just above the Cemetery, he was attacked by two Chinamen, who set upon him from behind. Mr. Esrom was partly stunned by the blows he received, and fell. The robbers—for such they were—then snatched his gold watch and chain, value \$65, and made off the way they had come. The unfortunate gentleman was found lying on the roadway soon afterwards by a sailor, who took him to No. 2 Police Station, where an account of the outrage was given to Inspector Ford. The mere facts that Bowen Road is comparatively well frequented and that discovery was imminent at any moment may be accepted as the reason why the robbers did not complete their daring work and search Mr. Esrom, who carried nearly \$300 in his pockets. The police have been successful in recovering the watch and chain from a pawnshop where the articles were pledged for a very small sum.

Two Chinese coolies were brought up at the Magistracy on Thursday, charged with the assault, and the case is adjourned to Monday.

The following items are from the *Foochow Daily Echo* of the 2nd inst.:—The weather continued fine and bright over Wednesday, but has since been dull and raw with a threatening of rain. There are still a good many of the residents on the doctor's hands with the prevailing epidemic.—The hockey matches arranged for this week, namely "Over Thirty v. Under Thirty" and "Married v. Single" could not be played quite as intended owing to the absence of several members of the Hockey Club, a good deal of "pick up" having to be resorted to; nevertheless on both occasions fast and exciting games were witnessed. The actual matches will no doubt be played later on. The wounded, we understand, are doing fairly well.—Dr. W. Wykeham Myers of Takow has been appointed doctor at Pagoda Anchorage vice Dr. Underwood, deceased.—The latest transfers of properties have been the old Loong Shun compound to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and the Hong known as Birley & Co.'s to Mr. G. Siemssen. The prices have not transpired.

THE P. & O. S.S. "PLASSY."

The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Plassy*, which left the harbour on Sunday, the 3rd inst., for Shanghai, is the latest addition to the Company's magnificent fleet of vessels, and is on her maiden voyage to the Far East. She was built at Caird's, of Greenock, and was, as far as the marine architecture of the British Isles is concerned, the first-born vessel of the century. From the time her lines were laid down till she left her cradle and glided majestically into the waters of the Clyde, was but a few months, and her speedy construction has this additional merit that she possesses all the appurtenances for immediate conversion into a troop or auxiliary commerce destroyer in troublous times, as well as every modern appliance necessary for accelerating the transit of freight in times of peace. She is a sister ship to the *Assaye* and the *Sobraon*, with the exception that she possesses in point of internal detail a variety of improvements, all of which tend to the comfort and well-being of her passengers. Her bilge keels have the effect of steadying her to a remarkable degree, and although on the passage out she met with heavy N. W. gales in the Bay of Biscay, and strong N. E. monsoons in the Indian Ocean with a fierce monsoon through the China Sea, there was an absence of that incessant roll which renders life at sea so particularly unpleasant at times. Indeed, the heavy weather the *Plassy* experienced on her way out was ample test of her fitness for the particular trade for which she has been designed. Without driving her a speed of 14½ knots an hour on an average was obtained, some two and a half knots less than that indicated on her trial trip. She left Singapore at half-past six on the evening of Sunday week, and was just five days coming up to the Quarantine Ground. Her engines are triple-expansion, and she carries electro-dynamo which light up the vessel throughout. She exhibits electric side-lights and double electric masthead lights, and on her triple decks, in addition to eleven life-boats, a steam launch with a speed of ten knots, and two cutters, she has eight collapsible boats for the better security of her passengers in case of need. For taking cargo inboard she has, in addition to eight modern cranes, two of them lifting five tons each, and the remaining six bearing two and a half tons each, and working simultaneously, an enormous movable derrick capable of lifting 26½ tons. She is a three-decker, her main or troop deck running fore and aft with sixteen-inch scuttles right round. Her hurricane deck affords a magnificent promenade for passengers, who can patrol four or five abreast with ease. On the fore side is the Captain's state-room, the internal fittings of which leave nothing to be desired. On the after part companions lead into the music rooms, first and second saloons, libraries, berths, lavatories, &c. The boat-deck is also an welcome addition to the space reserved for the recreative enjoyment of her passengers, and throughout the design has been to utilise every available inch of deck space for the extension of her passenger and freight traffic.

The *Plassy* is 450½ feet in length, 54½ feet in width, and 35½ feet depth of hold. Her gross tonnage is 7,405. She is commanded by Capt. C. F. Preston, R.N.R. who, being in possession of the necessary Admiralty warrant, flies the Blue Ensign. The selection of Capt. Preston to the command of the company's heiress of the century is both judicious and well-deserved. From boyhood upwards, he has spent a life time in the service of the Company. He ploughed the China seas in the old sailing ship days when the *Haddington* used to be the star of the clippers in the early sixties, and ere the seventies had dawned he took command under canvas, and successfully navigated his clipper vessel through typhoons and storms innumerable between the home ports and Yokohama, Foochow, Hongkong, and Bangkok. At the close of the tea-days, and with the advent of steam, Capt. Preston still continued to run on the China coast, and has seen twelve years of active service. For four years he sailed constantly between Yokohama and Hongkong, and for a long time had a command on the Bombay and China line. He has become quite popular with P. & O. passengers, and is the holder of several valuable gifts tendered by grateful

passengers for kindness and consideration shown them while at sea. The remaining officers of the vessel are:—Mr. Anderson, R.N.R., chief officer; Mr. Stanley, R.N.R., 2nd officer; Mr. Feakes, R.N.R., third officer; Mr. Nicholl, R.N.R., fourth officer; Mr. Beattler, R.N.R., fifth officer; Mr. Williamson, chief engineer; Mr. Dust, steward-in-charge; and Dr. Haughton-Brown, the medical adviser.

The *Plassy* has accommodation for 130 first class, and 72 second class passengers, and has proceeded North with a general cargo for the China and Japan ports.

HONGKONG-BOUND OIL-SHIP IN PERIL.

THE "MADAGASCAR" PARTIALLY SUBMERGED IN TWO HURRICANES.

The four-masted steel barque *Madagascar* arrived in the Harbour on Monday evening, 4th inst., from New York, 146 days out, with a full cargo of 83,500 cases of kerosene oil, consigned to the Standard Oil Company. She completed loading and dropped down towards the Hook on the afternoon of 25th September last, and from the time her pilot left the sail till she headed north in her southern latitudes, she encountered a succession of hurricanes almost phenomenal for that season of the year. For over fifteen days after the first spread of her canvas, she battled against adverse winds, at times making little or no headway, till the North-east Trades were met with, her position at that time being within a degree of the spot where two or three southern bound vessels lost their sails and spars. The *Madagascar* met her first hurricane on the night of 26th October when the wind veered from a steady ten-knot breeze to a fierce gale. Indications of the atmospheric change were observed during the middle watch, and by the dawn the wind was at storm-pitch. Fortunately the premonition was sufficient to enable all hands to shorten sail and lay to, the wind showing every sign of approaching hurricane force. There was a mountainous sea running which shook the vessel as she laid to it, and at times it seemed as if she would be engulfed, so heavy were the seas that swept inboards. But beyond wresting some minor articles of her deck gear the *Madagascar* ploughed steadily through wind and sea, and came out after five or six hours practically none the worse for her first hurricane. Her second was on 28th October, when a fierce squall struck the ship during the morning, and deliberately threw her over till her lee-rail was in the water. It was a moment of the greatest danger while the squall lasted, but notwithstanding the heavy list, the cargo fortunately remained stationary, and the *Madagascar* eventually righted herself. It was momentarily, though, for another squall came on, and striking her on the starboard side partially submerged her. The topgallant sails were completely blown out of the ropes. While the vessel was in her listed condition she sprang almost the whole of her deck stanchions fore and aft, and did much damage to her running gear. The wind heightened gradually during the whole of the next day, and heavy seas were shipped, fortunately without any serious effect. For a whole week the Captain and his hardy crew tried to weather Cape San Roque and beating continually were rewarded by making that point on the eighth day, and catching the South-east Trades shortly afterwards. Fine weather that followed, the vessel picking up westerly winds in Lat. 38 S., which continued until Long. 59 E. and Lat. 44 S. was reached on December 24th. Here the vessel met her third hurricane. She again shipped tremendous seas, several of them succeeding in heaving the ship down till the port side was completely submerged. In this position she remained for a considerable time, squall after squall striking her with relentless fury. When eventually the weather moderated it was found that she had a heavy list to port through the cargo having shifted. The seas had filled the deck houses and the cabins under the poop, and washed overboard all the utensils out of the galley. They had burst the fresh water tank on the deck, and had carried the buckets and bucket-racks overboard, while the doors were washed off the frames under the fore-castle-head. The bulwarks and

deck fittings throughout were strained, and in some cases torn from the main-rail. On Christmas Day the wind rapidly increased, and became violent during the night. Strong gales succeeded each other, and the *Madagascar* was for a third time hove-down. Owing to the then precarious condition of the ship it was decided to use linseed oil upon the sea, and that had a good effect, for the violence of the waves was much subdued thereby and further damage to the ship stayed. On December 26th the wind moderated. The *Madagascar* that day passed a newly painted ship's spar which had evidently not been long in the water, and other wreckage was observed which led to the conclusion that some vessel had foundered during the hurricane. When it became practicable the hatches were opened and the cargo was found to be intact, not a single case being damaged either by salt water or during the shifting. On January 23rd, when the vessel was in Lat. 21 S. Long. 163½ E., she met another gale which lasted for two days. This was followed by squally weather all the way up the China sea till almost within reach of port.

Captain A. H. Smith, who is in command of the *Madagascar*, is an old Calcutta trader and a native of Dundee, who for many years was in the jute trade. His chief officer, Mr. D. Maclean Scott, has also had some Eastern experience, and Mr. David Thos. Williams is the second officer.

PRAJA EAST RECLAMATION SCHEME.

We have received for publication copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Hongkong Government and the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., on the subject of the proposed Praya East Reclamation Scheme. The letters are given below:—

Hongkong, 12th June, 1900.

SIR.—In the month of July, 1887, I submitted for the consideration of His Excellency Major-General Cameron, then Administering the Government, a project for the reclamation of the foreshore of the Colony from the Western boundary of the Military Cantonments westward to the Gas Works. The project was approved and accepted by the Government and by the land-owners concerned, was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and has been, to a very great extent, carried out and completed in accordance with my original proposals, at an expense to the Colony not exceeding my estimates and with greater pecuniary profit and advantage to the Government and to the Colony than even I ventured to anticipate. In only one respect has that project failed to accomplish all that was expected from it. My principal object in suggesting it was to relieve the overcrowding in the older portions of the City and so improve the general sanitary condition of the Colony, then greatly in need of improvement. The length of time the Praya Reclamation has been in hand, and the steady growth of the population during the twelve years that have elapsed since first I mooted the scheme, have prevented the Colony from obtaining any adequate relief of that kind in spite of the very considerable area of new land added to the Colony, and, it will have, I am afraid, to be admitted that in the central districts the overcrowding is now as great, if not greater, than in 1887.

I have now to submit for the consideration of His Excellency Major-General Gascoigne, C.M.G., the Officer at present Administering the Government of the Colony, another scheme of the same class and character but more extensive, having the same object in view—the improvement of the sanitary condition of the Colony by the creation of additional building land sufficient for the erection of 2,413 Chinese houses of the most improved construction, well lighted and ventilated, and capable of accommodating an adult population of about 150,000 people, allowing thirty square feet of floor space and four hundred and fifty cubic feet of air space for each adult. I propose to increase the practically available area of the Colony by 4,227,400 square feet, or 97.03 acres. Of this area 2,665,300 square feet, or 61.18 acres, will be an actual addition to the size of the Island by reclamation from the sea, and 1,562,100 square feet, or 35.85 acres will be made available by the cutting down, levelling and laying out of ground now practically useless. Of the 4,227,400 square

feet thus added to the Colony, 2,496,780 square feet, or 57.08 acres, will be building land, and 1,740,630 square feet, or 39.95 acres, will be added to the area already covered by public roads and streets. My proposals, if successfully carried out, will put into the Treasury a lump sum of at least \$837,050, will improve the revenue from Crown Lands by the sum of \$33,910 per annum and from taxes by the sum of \$150,571 per annum, and all this will be accomplished without any expense whatever to the Government.

All this I propose should be done within five years from the date when the work is sanctioned by the Secretary of State, provided due diligence is used. The work, although more extensive, is of a much easier and less costly character than that connected with the reclamation now in progress. If my calculations are correct, this project, if carried out, will do for the Eastern portion of the Colony all and more than all that the Sanitary Board hoped to be able to accomplish, if their proposals for a Sanitary Trust had met with the approval of the Government.

I propose that the reclamation of the foreshore of the Wanchai district from Arsenal Street to the East Point Refinery should be undertaken and carried out at the expense of the Marine Lot holders on the same lines as those on which the present reclamation is being carried out, and under a similar, but slightly amended Ordinance. This reclamation will involve the construction of a sea-wall, 5,180 feet in length, starting from the Eastern extremity of the proposed extension of the Naval Yard and Arsenal, and continuous with the outer face of such extension, following on an easy curve the line of the Eastern Praya at a distance from it of about 445 feet and terminating at the Western extremity of the East Point Sugar Refinery premises, and in line with its northern face. It is calculated that the seawall will give an average depth of 16½ feet at low water spring tides along its entire face. The land to be reclaimed within the new sea-wall will be laid out as follows:—

The present Praya will be widened to 65 feet a strip of building land 120 feet in width, specially designed to take two rows of Chinese houses, four stories in height, not exceeding 60 feet in extreme depth and having 15 feet backyards, will be laid out next to the old Praya along the entire length of the reclamation. Outside of that will come a thoroughfare 75 feet wide, beyond that another strip of building land 150 feet wide to allow of the construction of godowns, and then the New Praya, 75 feet wide. Ten streets, 50 feet in width, will traverse the reclamation from the Old to the New Praya. Plan herewith.

For the purpose of filling in the land to be reclaimed from the sea, the hills on which the Royal Naval Hospital and Morrison Hill houses stand—Inland Lots 84 and 86—will have to be acquired from their owners (acquisitions which can, I believe, be easily obtained on favourable terms hereinafter detailed), and cut down to the level of Queen's Road by the Eastern Market. This cutting down will not only supply all the stone and earth required for the sea-wall and reclamation, but will give the Colony an additional area of level ground of 1,562,100 square feet, or 35.85 acres, and will open out the whole of the Wanchai district, now shut in on the east, to the easterly and south-easterly winds; a further benefit will be conferred on the Colony by the levelling of the roads leading from the City to the Happy Valley. The plan sent herewith shows clearly the area proposed to be levelled both north and south of the Queen's Road and also the method in which the new ground is proposed to be laid out. The project includes the widening of the Queen's Road to a breadth of 75 feet from the Eastern Market to the Race Course and Causeway Bay (an immense benefit in itself) and the piercing of the district by 6 other streets, each 50 feet wide, 3 running parallel to the Queen's Road and 3 at right angles to it, dividing the land into blocks of such size and shape that only the approved style of Chinese houses can be built on them.

The land to be dealt with by this portion of my scheme covers, as already stated, 1,562,100 square feet, or 35.85 acres. Of this, Inland Lot 84, Morrison Hill, the property of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., includes 790,614 square

feet, or 18.85 acres. Inland Lot 86, the property of the Admiralty, covers 303,014 square feet, or 6.95 acres, and the balance 468,472 square feet, or 10.75 acres is still undisposed of, and is the property of the Government, but is, in its present state, unsaleable.

I believe that I will have no difficulty in arranging, if authorized to do so, with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. for the surrender by them of the whole of their land, on condition that they receive back on the same terms, and at the same rent as at present, about 521,800 square feet of building land, or 11.98 acres, out of the improved area.

As to the Royal Naval Hospital ground, the acquisition of this involves rather more difficulty and entails a considerable expenditure by the Colonial Government in the first instance—an expenditure, however, to be fully recouped in the end, without interfering with the estimated profit to the Government already referred to.

The Naval Authorities want a new and improved hospital with more accommodation. They would prefer a site more directly accessible from the water, and further removed from the Chinese quarter of the City. Flagstaff Hill at Kowloon, now the property of the War Department, would afford ample space for a hospital double the size of the present building, with extensive grounds, the purest air, the freshest breezes at all seasons, and easy accessibility. I estimate that a suitable hospital could be constructed on Flagstaff Hill with every possible convenience for \$200,000. This money the Colonial Treasury would have to provide in the first instance, but it could easily be procured locally at 5 per cent if the Government so wished. As for the ground, the Military have no use for it, and they would gladly exchange it for an equal area more towards the centre of Kowloon. This would entail the resumption of certain lands there which there would be no difficulty in acquiring as the power of the Crown to resume is clear, and the cost would, I think, not exceed \$200,000 if resumption was effected at once.

The total cost of the improvements proposed to be effected is estimated (not including the cost of the new Naval Hospital) at \$1,100,000, which is made up as follows:—

For the Pierre Perdu	\$ 83,650
Sea-wall, including Return and Wing Walls	247,600
Filling in, including cutting down, levelling and laying out of Morrison Hill and Naval Hospital Hill	444,200
Sewers, &c.	140,000
Curbing and channelling of Streets, &c.	82,500
Contingencies 5 per cent.	49,900
	\$1,047,850

Say, \$1,100,000.

All these items are worked out at the present high rates of labour and material.

The whole of this will be borne by the existing Marine Lot holders in the Wanchai district, who will receive an augmentation to their holdings of 1,492,180 square feet divided rateably among them in proportion to their frontages, the Government, in respect of No. 2 Police Station, being numbered amongst the Marine Lot holders and receiving 71,400 square feet of the above. The cost works out at about 70 cents per square foot of available building land reclaimed.

In addition to the building land added to the Colony by the reclamation, which is calculated to afford accommodation for 1,331 four-storied houses, there will, by the cutting down of Morrison and Naval Hospital Hills and the hills adjoining on the south, as shown in the plan, be added to the available building in the Colony, levelled and ready for building 994,700 square feet, or 22.83 acres, affording accommodation for 1,082 three-storied houses. Of this, 521,000 square feet, or 11.98 acres, will go to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., in compensation for the land surrendered by them; 472,900 square feet, or 10.85 acres, will be handed over to the Government free of all cost.

The Colony will, in addition to the building land thus added to its resources have acquired, if the scheme is carried out, new streets, &c., covering an area of 1,740,630 square feet, or 39.95 acres, of which two-thirds, or 26.93 acres, will be included in the reclamation.

The value of the land thus placed at the disposal of the Government is estimated at \$1,137,050, namely:—

Front Lot opposite No. 2 Police Station	25,500 sq. ft. @ \$3.00 =	\$ 76,500
Back Lot opposite No. 2 Police Station	45,900 " @ 2.50 =	114,750
Royal Naval Hill Lot, &c., &c.	472,000 " @ 2.00 =	945,800
Total Value,		\$1,137,050

From which must be deducted cost of New Royal Naval Hospital	\$ 200,000
New Site for Military	200,000
Compensation to Leaseholders for Resumption	100,000
	500,000

Balance in favour of Government	\$ 637,050
The annual Crown rents for the new building areas are estimated as follows:—	
Praya East 34.25 Acres @ \$300 per Acre	= \$27,400
Royal Naval Hill 10.85 " @ 600 "	= 6,510
	\$33,910

The annual rateable value of the houses when built is estimated at \$1,158,240, and is made up as follows:—

2,413 Houses at \$40 per House = a Gross Annual Rental of \$1,158,240 @ 13 per cent.	\$151,571
The Government would, therefore, not only have ground to dispose of, of the value of \$637,000, but would have an annual revenue of \$184,481, which, capitalized at 5 per cent. would amount to \$3,689,620.	

I respectfully submit this scheme for the approval of the Government and of the Secretary of State. The proposals have been carefully thought out, and the calculations are fairly accurate. Our experience with the Praya Reclamation Scheme now in process of execution, enables me to judge with certainty as to the character of the work to be done, the cost to be incurred and the time to be taken, and also as to the benefits to the Colony from the works proposed.

The Wanchai district will be laid open to ventilation and improvement in a way in which it could not possibly be dealt with before. The removal of the two hills to the Eastward will add immensely to the area of the district, and to the easy accessibility of the districts to the east of it. The reclamation will add further to its area. The proposed new roads and Praya will facilitate the erection of healthful buildings and the improved sanitation of the neighbourhood. The erection of all new houses will be brought under the strictest sanitary rules. Their number and character will compel landlords to improve and rebuild in the area now under occupation. This immense addition will be made to the area of the district, and to the income to be derived from it by the Colony at a minimum of expense, and with a minimum of disturbance of existing interests.

But—and I beg most respectfully to call attention to it—if the benefits indicated are to be derived from this project, it must be proceeded with at once, and vigorously. It must be finished within five years, and with proper measures it can be done easily in that time. It is a much simpler undertaking than the Western Reclamation, but if it is to draw the population from the central part of the City, and ease the pressure of population there, it must be accompanied by some intelligent scheme of tramway communication between the heart and the extremities of the City, which will be cheap and attractive.

Of all things speed is the most important, or otherwise, the steady increase in the population of the Colony will overtake the provision to be made for their accommodation.

The Government entrusted me, in connection with the existing Reclamation, with the negotiation and arrangement with the landowners affected and with all of the details of the scheme. I place myself again entirely at the disposal of the Government to carry out all negotiations and arrangements with the Marine Lot holders and others in Wanchai whose assent may be required for the present scheme.

I suggest further for the Government, that all resumptions of land, and all compensations to be paid landholders in connection with the present scheme should be borne and paid by the Marine Lot holders as part of the expenses of the scheme; all land resumed being sold for the benefit of the fund. Any little friction that has arisen in connection with the existing Reclamation will thereby be obviated with the present proposals.

I would only submit, in conclusion, for the consideration of the Government that, if the

Public Works Department with the enormous tasks on its hands at the present moment—the existing Reclamation, the Water Supply, the proposed New Public Buildings—is not in a position to undertake another Reclamation, that there will be no difficulty in having the work done by Engineers and Contractors employed directly by the Marine Lot holders, it being, of course, thoroughly understood that all plans must be submitted to and approved by the Director of Public Works and that the works would have to be carried out in accordance with such plans and to his complete satisfaction.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient and humble Servant,

(Signed) C. P. CHATER.

The Honourable
THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY,
Hongkong.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Hongkong, 13th September, 1900.

SIR.—I am directed to inform you that the Governor has had under consideration your letter of the 12th of June, in which you propose a scheme for a large reclamation from the sea between Arsenal Street and East Point and for the utilisation of Morrison Hill and Mount Shadwell in connection with the reclamation.

His Excellency is prepared to view favourably your suggestion that the reclamation should be carried out on behalf of the Marine Lot holders by the Government, rather than that the Government should exercise its undoubted right to make the reclamation on its own account.

But His Excellency is not prepared to concede the terms, unduly favourable to the Marine Lot holders, which are proposed in your letter.

The value of the land which will be comprised in this new Reclamation is and must be a matter of opinion, and since it cannot be determined now His Excellency is prepared to recommend to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, whose sanction must be obtained before any reclamation is made, the following principle for ensuring that the Government on behalf of the whole Colony obtains a fair share with the Marine Lot holders in the profits of the reclamation, namely that the expense of the reclamation be provided in the same way as was the expense of the Praya Reclamation, and that when the new reclamation is finished the land so reclaimed shall be valued, and the expense of reclamation being deducted, the sum remaining divided equally between the Marine Lot holders and the Government as premium, the Crown rent to be the same as on the Western Praya, but neither premium nor Crown rent to be payable for the land required for street and lanes.

If you accept this principle, which in the Governor's opinion is a reasonable and equitable one, His Excellency will take steps to give the details of your scheme early and careful consideration.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) F. H. MAY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable
C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hongkong, 29th September, 1900.

SIR.—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1,711 of the 13th inst. (in reply to mine of the 12th June last) in which you inform me that His Excellency the Governor has had under consideration my proposals for a large reclamation from the sea between Arsenal Street and East Point; that he is prepared to view favourably my suggestion that the Reclamation in question should be carried out on behalf of the Marine Lot holders by the Government, but that His Excellency is not prepared to accede to the terms embodied in my letter, as he deems them unduly favourable to the Marine Lot holders.

2. His Excellency's suggestion is, that the expenses of the Reclamation be provided for in the same way as was the expense of the Praya Reclamation now in progress; that when the reclamation is finished, the land so reclaimed be valued; that the expenses be deducted from such valuation and that the balance be equally divided between the Marine Lot holders and the Government. You further inform me that if I am prepared to accept this proposal as the basis of any arrangement to be come to His

Excellency is prepared to take steps for a detailed examination of the scheme.

3. I have given to His Excellency's proposals very full and very careful consideration. I have gone into the figures again, so far as it is possible to estimate them, and have obtained professional advice and assistance in working out results. I regret to say that after this fresh investigation, and after a detailed examination and comparison of the two Reclamation Schemes—the Praya Reclamation now in progress and the present scheme—I am unable to accept His Excellency's suggestion as to the principle to be applied in working out the scheme, and I could not conscientiously recommend it for the acceptance of the Marine Lot holders in Wanchai, the position of the Marine Lot holders and the nature of their property being so totally different along the Eastern and Western Prayas.

4. I admit that, as events have turned out, it would not have been unreasonable or inequitable if some such principle had been applied to the Praya Reclamation now in progress, the Marine Lot holders and the occupants of premises there suffering little or no loss, either in the value of their holdings or in the profits of their business, during the progress of the Reclamation works, or in consequence thereof, and, therefore, benefiting to the full extent of the value of the reclaimed land or thereabouts; but the position in the Wanchai District is totally different. The Marine Lot holders there must necessarily suffer enormously during the progress of the works, and will be put to very great expense before they can make their properties pay again as Inland Lots. They will barely be repaid their losses and necessary expenditure by the value of the reclaimed land coming to them, while the Government, on behalf of the Colony, will, without running any risk or incurring any expenditure, derive from the scheme the enormous profits set forth in my first letter—the Treasury will pocket, from land sales alone, a lump sum of at least \$637,050, and will derive an additional annual revenue of \$150,571 from Crown Rents and Taxes, and the Colony, as a whole, will have added to it, free of expense, an immense additional area, laid out in streets and roads of ample width and with the very latest improvements.

5. If His Excellency will amend his proposal by including in the expense of the reclamation the amount of the fair and reasonable compensation (to be assessed under Ordinance 23 of 1889 or some similar Ordinance) payable to existing Lot holders in the Wanchai District for loss of rents and business during the progress of the works and for the diminished value of their lands when converted from Marine into Inland Lots, then, possibly, the principle of division of profits might be acceptable; but even then the profits to be derived by the Government from the carrying out of the Scheme, as put forward by me, would be immeasurably greater than the sum derived by the Lot holders. The Government would get what would practically be a gift—something for nothing. The Marine Lot holders would get only a fair return on their investment.

6. The Central and Western Praya, at the commencement of the Reclamation of 1889, was, with one or two wholly unimportant exceptions, all shops, stores and residences. The principal part of the trade of the Colony was carried on along it. The whole coasting trade of the Colony centred there. The reclamations in their progress, although causing considerable inconvenience, did not seriously interfere with business along the Praya nor in its neighbourhood, and did not interfere with the values of the properties nor with the rentals derived from them. The residents could not move elsewhere to carry on their business, so they had, perforce, to remain where they were and make the best of it. The Marine Lot holders, therefore, suffered no diminution of their rentals during the progress of the reclamation—the tenants bearing whatever losses or inconveniences there were—and now that the reclamation is finished and their former Marine Lots have become inland lots, the lapse of time and the steady increase in the population and in the trade and shipping of the Colony has made them as valuable for purposes of sale as the old Marine Lots ever were. They have, therefore, all the profits derivable from the value of the new made land.

7. In Wanchai the state of affairs is wholly different. It never has been and never will be an important business quarter. No trading junks anchor there. No Chinese merchants or traders of any position reside and carry on their work there; only the poorer classes frequent that neighbourhood. It is only within a comparatively recent period that there has been any business there at all even for the godowns. The division of the City caused by the interposition of the Naval and Military establishments has prevented the Chinese from settling there, and the immense expansion now in progress of the Naval Yard seaward will only emphasize the separation. The whole length of the Wanchai Praya is and always has been occupied almost entirely by godowns, and they are mainly used for the storage of coal and of the heavier and less expensive kinds of merchandise. The business of these godowns will be at once affected by the commencement of Praya reclamation works. The goods stored in them cannot stand the additional expense of carriage when their access to the sea is impeded. Now the godowns are 50 feet from the sea wall. Then they will be 550 feet. They will have all of them to be pulled down, and the space they now occupy covered with Chinese houses. At present rates (and there is no prospect of any fall in prices), it will cost at the rate of \$4 a foot to clear the present Marine Lots and cover them with Chinese houses equal to present sanitary requirements. The Marine Lot holders assenting to the proposed Praya reclamation at Wanchai will lose the profits of their godown business for varying periods—some of them for three years—and to enable them to utilise their lots will have to expend on new buildings at the rate of \$4 a square foot. If the Government undertook this reclamation itself, as it undoubtedly has the power to do, it could only do it by paying to the Marine Lot holders a full and fair compensation. When this compensation was paid and the net cost added to the cost of reclamation, the profit to Government on the entire reclamation would be small, especially as the Government would have to borrow money for the work and probably to remain out of it, paying interest for some considerable time. In any case it would have to take the risk of all delays and losses in realization.

8. The Marine Lot holder who agrees to the Praya Reclamation on my scheme has, in addition to finding the money for carrying it out, to (a) stand the loss of his present godown business during the progress of the work, to (b) spend \$4 a foot at the least in pulling down his godowns and putting up Chinese houses in their place, to (c) spend much more in building on his reclaimed land, either godowns or dwelling houses, and lastly, to take all the risk of finding himself unable to let his new godowns and buildings at remunerative figures as speedily as he could wish. The value of the newly reclaimed land will hardly repay him for all this. The Governor's proposal would leave him out of pocket.

9. His Excellency will understand that in writing this I am expressing my own views and opinions only. I have not consulted and am not now speaking as the representative of the Marine Lot holders. I am giving His Excellency the result of my own careful study of the question, with the experience of many years and an intimate knowledge of the Colony and its business to justify me. The reclamation of the Eastern Praya and the removal of the Hospital and Morrison Hills are works that in the interest of the Colony must be done sooner or later. The rapid expansion of the Colony and of its business demands it. Now is the time. The Colony is prosperous—money is plentiful. The Naval Yard Extension almost renders imperative the doing of the work now. If it is completed without the reclamation being taken in hand, Wanchai will be placed at a still greater disadvantage than ever and become less than ever a part of the City, to the injury of property and property owners there. As for the Colonial Government undertaking the task on its own account and risk I see no possibility of its ever being in a position to do so; so many public works of pressing importance are crying out for funds for their commencement or completion.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Signed) C. P. CHATER.

The Honourable
The COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong, 15th November, 1900.

SIR,—Referring to my letter of the 12th June, submitting certain proposals for the reclamation of a large tract of foreshore in the Wanchai District, to your reply of the 13th September, to my rejoinder of the 9th of the same month, and to an interview with which His Excellency the Governor favoured me on the 22nd of October last, I have now the honour to submit for the consideration of the Government an amendment to the proposals contained in my letter of the 12th June last which will, if accepted, enable the Marine Lot holders in whose interests the reclamation will be carried out to acquiesce in the suggestion contained in your letter of the 13th September, that the Colonial Treasury should derive some more direct benefit from the carrying out of the works in question. Your proposal was that the building land reclaimed from the sea should be valued and that the difference between such valuation and the cost of the reclamation when finished should be divided between the Lot holders and the Government, the Government accepting their half of the profit by way of premium on the land reclaimed and leased to the Marine Lot holders.

In my letter of the 29th September, I pointed out that there could be no serious objection to this proposal if the Government consented to include in the cost of the Reclamation the compensation that would undoubtedly be claimed by the Marine Lot holders for their loss of rental, &c., on their existing lots during the progress of the reclamation and for the diminished value of these lots on conversion into Inland Lots. I also suggested for the consideration of the Government that if any questions as to compensation arose there might be very little profit to divide.

At the interview with which I was honoured by the Governor it appeared that it was for many reasons undesirable that any proposals for the reclamation of the eastern district should be formulated which should give rise to any complications in connection with questions of compensation, but that the Government, nevertheless, felt bound to insist upon the payment to the Treasury of something in the shape of premium on the land reclaimed for building purposes and of which leases would have to be granted. I suggested therefore the following modification of my original proposals, and as it appeared to be acceptable I have now the honour to embody it in writing.

The proposed reclamation extending from the Arsenal eastward to Jardine's premises included the widening of the present Praya east to a width of 75 feet, the formation of sites for the construction of Chinese houses outside of that of the depth of 120 feet, the construction of a road 75 feet wide beyond that, then a further strip of land for godowns of 150 feet in depth and outside of all a Praya 75 feet wide. If His Excellency will consent to a further extension of this reclamation by another 75 feet to be added to the strip of land reserved for godowns, making the depth of the proposed reclamation 520 feet instead of 445 feet as originally proposed, I think I can persuade the Marine Lot holders to consent to pay the Treasury a premium of 25 cents a foot on every foot of building land to be leased to them. This will give the Government a premium income of \$500,000 or thereabouts which it would not receive under the scheme as originally framed and a considerable addition to the rental derivable from the land, which will be increased by about one-seventh.

This proposal, while increasing the area of new land to be obtained by the undertakers, and giving an increased depth of water along the new sea wall, will add considerably to the cost of the work to be borne by the Marine Lot Holders. It will, however, give a definite sum to the Government without involving the Government in any risk of loss should any unforeseen change in the position or prospects of the Colony render the undertaking unprofitable to the owners of Marine Lots at Wanchai.

May I ask for the favourable consideration of the Government for this modified proposal and for an early reply, as the sooner I can obtain the consent of the Lot holders and the sooner the work can be commenced the better for all

parties?—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,
(Signed),

C. P. CHATER.

The Honourable
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
HONGKONG, 12th February, 1901.

SIR,—1. Referring to your letters of the 12th June, 29th September, and 15th November, laying before Government a scheme for the reclamation of the foreshore from Arsenal Street to East Point, and offering your services as intermediary between the Government and the Marine Lot owners, and my reply of the 13th September to your first letter, I have the honour to inform you that your proposals have been fully considered in Executive Council.

2. His Excellency the Governor will be glad to avail himself of your offer to act as an intermediary, and is prepared (provided your negotiations with the owners of the existing Marine Lots are satisfactory and lead to their assent to your proposals) to recommend to the Secretary of State the general acceptance of the scheme, subject to the following conditions and to any modification the Secretary of State may deem necessary:—

"A." That the part of your scheme which involved the cutting down of Morrison Hill and Mount Shadwell to the level of Queen's Road having been abandoned in view of the representations adverse to that proposal which have been put forward, it shall be left to the Government to decide where the materials for the reclamation work are to be obtained, Leighton Hill and Mount Caroline being possibly utilised, unless any unforeseen difficulty should arise.

"B." That the proposed reclamation, including the extension of streets and a new Praya roadway, be carried out in accordance with a general plan to be drawn up, shewing the land to be reclaimed delineated thereon in such divisions as are proportionate to the frontages of the existing Marine Lots, and the land when reclaimed shall be allotted according to such divisions.

"C." That the whole of the works, including the removal and re-erection of piers, and the extension, formation, sewerage and channelling of the proposed new streets and new Praya wall and roadway, except on such portions of the foreshore as are situated in front of the Government properties, be carried out by the Public Works Department at the cost of the Marine Lot owners.

"D." That the Government shall not be called upon to incur any expense whatever, whether for drainage or sewage works or any matter connected with the scheme, other than the expenditure on account of the wall and reclamation in front of Government properties.

"E." That the cost of the proposed works, except as aforesaid, be defrayed from a general fund to be constituted by the Marine Lot owners for the purpose, and that before the commencement of the works each Marine Lot owner enter into a written contract with the Government binding himself to take up such allotment of the general reclamation as may be apportioned him by the Government, and that each Marine Lot owner deposit at the Bank 25 per cent of the total value of the contribution to the General Fund by way of guarantee of his bona-fides, such deposit of 25 per cent to be forfeited to the Crown in the event of the Marine Lot owner subsequently failing to take up his allotment for the reclamation. The interest accruing on these deposits to be handed over by Government to the Marine Lot owners.

"F." That during the progress of the works all calls of money for works that may be made by the Government upon the Marine Lot owners shall be duly honoured by the latter, provided that the amount of such calls does not exceed the value of the works actually done in their respective allotments.

"G." That immediately upon the completion of the reclamation of his allotment, including the construction of new streets and of the new Praya as aforesaid, each Marine Lot owner take out a Crown Lease for said allotment, paying an Annual Crown Rent for the same at the rate of \$20. per quarter acre.

"H." That no rebate of Annual Crown Rent shall be claimed by the Marine Lot owners for their present holdings:

"I." That the leases for the reclaimed lots be for 99 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Governor for the time being for one further term of 99 years.

"J." That the cost of all resumptions of land and all compensations to be paid to the landholders in connection with the scheme be borne and paid by the Marine Lot holders as part of the expenses of the scheme, the estate or interest of the lessee so resumed being sold for the benefit of the fund, unless the Government elects to resume and pay the cost of resumption or compensation.

"K." That all blocks laid out for Chinese tenement houses be provided with a scavenging lane 10 feet wide opening to a public street at both ends, and in addition with open back yards in the rear of each house open to the said scavenging lane in accordance with following scale:—

Houses not exceeding 40 feet in depth, for each foot of width—5 square feet.

Houses over 40 feet, but not exceeding 50 feet in depth, for each foot of width—6 square feet.

Houses over 50 feet, but not exceeding 60 feet in depth, for each foot of width—8 square feet.

No tenement house to exceed 60 feet in depth, without the permission of the Governor in Council.

3. His Excellency accepts the modification of your original proposal, contained in your letter of the 15th November, namely, that the reclamation should extend 75 feet further into the harbour.

4. His Excellency is of opinion that a premium should be paid to Government by the Marine Lot holders for every foot of building and reclaimed land handed over to them, and that such premium should be at least 25 cents per square foot.

5. In conclusion, I am to add that the principle of reclamation in sections as adopted in the Western Praya reclamation scheme will be followed if the proposed reclamation is carried out, and that the expenses of a preliminary survey and estimate must be borne by the Marine Lot holders.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed.) J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable
C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

"THE SITUATION IN THE FAR EAST."

LECTURE BY MR. J. J. FRANCIS, K.C.

On Tuesday evening, the 5th inst., Mr. J. J. Francis, K.C., delivered a lecture in the City Hall, under the auspices of the Hongkong Odd Volumes Society, on "An examination of the situation in the Far East." Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Secretary of the Society, took the chair. There was a good attendance.

Mr. POLLOCK said Mr. Francis had kindly consented to deliver a lecture on "An examination of the situation in the Far East." By his residence in this colony for over 40 years past the lecturer was well qualified to deal with the subject. He felt sure he would be able to throw a very interesting light upon the rather anxious problems with which they found themselves confronted out here, and he was sure his remarks would be followed with very great interest and attention by all present. (Applause.)

Mr. FRANCIS said the present position in China was an extremely difficult one satisfactorily to describe, and in thinking how he could best put that position before them he had come to the conclusion that almost the only satisfactory way in which it could be done was to glance hastily over the past history of European intercourse with China, and to show by what steps the European powers and the United States of America, China, and Japan had arrived at the present situation. To all intents and purposes it might be said that China was practically unknown, except through books written mainly by missionaries, to Europe and the remainder of the world before the commencement of her late most gracious Majesty's reign. Up to 1833, so far as Great Britain was concerned, the entire conduct of our intercourse with China was in the hands of the East India Company and the East India Company's agents. The East India Company, wholly and solely devoted to the interests

of their trade and to the making of profits, were probably in many respects the very worst class of people, so far as the general interests of European civilisation, and Great Britain in particular, were concerned, who could have been entrusted with the task. They had but one object, to trade, they had but one idea, to make profits, and the result was that they and their agents and rulers submitted absolutely and entirely to the dictates of the Chinese authorities in Canton and allowed themselves to be treated as though they were savages, uncivilised, knowing no rights and simply entitled to whatever the Chinese Government and Chinese merchants and Chinese traders thought fit to give them. The result was that when in 1833 the monopoly of the East India Company was abolished, and when it became necessary for Her Majesty's Government to deal with the Chinese authorities through its own officials instead of through the agents of the East India Company, it was found practically impossible for any intercourse to be carried on on any footing which could be submitted to by any civilised and independent power. The result was quarrels, disturbances, serious difficulties, and in the end war. That war practically raged from 1839 to 1842. The result of that war was the treaty by which under compulsion the Chinese Government agreed to open five ports to British trade and to grant certain rights as to the residence and protection of Europeans in the neighbourhood of those ports. In consequence of this continued violation of the provisions of this treaty another war broke out in 1857, resulting in the Treaty of Tientsin in 1860. The Chinese from that day to this had been constantly endeavouring to minimise the rights which by that treaty they appeared to grant not merely to Britishers but to all foreigners. By this time other of the principal European powers had obtained similar treaties and similar rights from the Chinese Government, but there had been a constant endeavour on the part of the Chinese Government to minimise in practice the rights granted to foreigners by these treaties. By the provisions of the treaty of 1860 a British Minister was installed at Peking, and in succession ministers and representatives of nearly all foreign powers were also installed at Peking, and a special establishment was instituted by the Chinese Government for the purpose of dealing with them called the Tsung-li Yamen; but that Tsung-li Yamen, instead of standing in the place in which the Foreign Minister of Great Britain or of France or Austria stood in reference to foreign countries, turned out to be simply a means by which all the negotiations between China and the foreign powers were impeded and delayed. The lecturer proceeded to trace the course of events in the Far East since the establishment of the Tsung-li Yamen, until he came to the war with Japan. He described how Japan was robbed of the fruits of her victory by certain European powers and proceeded to consider the question, Has China been treated fairly by the European powers? He said that in point of international law China was a sovereign and independent state having a thoroughly organised government which was thoroughly competent for the government of China itself, although from the peculiar circumstances connected with the history of China, its long isolation from contact with other nations, that Government was perhaps not the best to deal with questions affecting other nationalities. But the European powers had practically refused to recognise the empire of China as a sovereign independent state competent to rule and manage its own affairs. It might be that they were absolutely right, but was it natural or reasonable to expect the Chinese nation and the Chinese Government to take that view and submit to it, without trying to ascertain whether or not they were sufficiently powerful to repel the assaults made upon them? Therefore it was that out of that feeling, out of those encroachments by foreign powers, most of them without any justification, as it seemed to him, made upon the independence of China, and upon her imperial resources, the position which now existed in the north of China had arisen. Whether the missionary question was the immediate cause of the outbreak in the north of China or whether it was not, the fact must still remain that the Boxer movement was distinctly anti-foreign. It was anti-Christian natural-

ly enough. It was anti-Christian because Christianity struck at the root of all Chinese government. The religion of China, or the philosophy of China, whichever they liked to call it, was an essential part of its constitution as it had existed for 2,000 years, and it was perfectly natural that the Chinese Government and the Chinese people should resent the presence among them of the teachers of Christianity and of the disciples of Christianity as disturbing elements. (Hear, hear.) He was not saying, and did not attempt to say, that the action of the Chinese Government or of the Chinese people in what they had done in connection with this Boxer outbreak was in itself justifiable. He was only desirous of calling their attention to the fact that if they were to place themselves in the position of the Chinese, if the Chinese or any other Asiatic power attempted to do in England or any other European country what the European powers had attempted to do and had done in China, there would be the most vigorous resistance, and every international lawyer, every statesman, every publicist would be up in arms to justify and defend what that European state did in the way of resistance. He was calling their attention to possible justifications for the conduct of China and of the Chinese people in endeavouring if they possibly could to get rid of foreigners from the interior of their country and in breaking treaties, because those treaties were imposed by force. He was not attempting to justify for one moment the attack on the Legations. He was not attempting to justify for one moment the indiscriminate massacre of Europeans in the interior of the country. Such actions were outside the pale of all law, and the Chinese Government and the Chinese officials knew perfectly well by this time that such actions, such a method of seeking to obtain their objects, were wholly unjustifiable and wrong. But the fact was that, however this movement had been disgraced and discredited by the attack on the Legations, however much individuals and perhaps the nation as a whole deserved punishment for what had been done as part of the greater movement, nevertheless there was a considerable amount of justification for the attempt recently made to shake off the yoke of the foreigners. Continuing, Mr. Francis asked whether this was the beginning of the end as regarded China, or the commencement of a new era in which with European assistance she was likely to take her proper place in the society of nations. It appeared to him that they were at the beginning of a new era in China, and that the movement initiated by the Boxers, taken up by the Imperial Government, and supported, so far as they were capable of doing, by the Imperial troops and by the principal men connected with the Central Government at Peking, was only the beginning of a movement—he would not say for the expulsion of the foreigners from China, because he did not think that that was possible—in which foreign encroachments would be repelled and in which China would maintain herself sooner or later as a sovereign and independent state, capable more or less of holding her own with foreign powers, certainly so long as they were divided among themselves, and possibly in the course of a couple of generations of doing more than holding her own, and of competing actively with us, or with any of us, excepting perhaps the United States of America, in all matters of trade as well as in naval and military prowess. Of course it was perfectly possible, although it did not seem to him to be probable, that a more or less partial break-up of the Chinese empire would take place, and that certain powers might endeavour more or less successfully to annex or to absorb certain portions of the Chinese Empire. Mr. Francis argued that it was to the interest of Great Britain to prevent the break-up of China, and in particular to prevent the further encroachments of Russia, and touched on the possibility of China herself attaining to such a position as to be able to interpose a barrier against further Russian advances.

Mr. POLLOCK said he was sure he only voiced the opinion of them all when he said they were extremely indebted to Mr. Francis for the very careful exposition which he had given to them of the situation in the Far East. (Applause.) He was very glad indeed to hear the stand which Mr. Francis made on behalf of the Chi-

nese and to hear the way in which he spoke of the good order and government which prevailed almost universally throughout the Chinese Empire. (Hear, hear.) He considered he was quite justified in saying that if any country in Europe had been so hard-pressed as the Chinese nation had been lately there would have been a greater degree of disorder, in proportion, than they had recently witnessed in a Chinese empire. (Hear, hear.) What he should like to suggest to them for their consideration was this—that Great Britain and the other chief commercial powers in the Far East had themselves a very great interest, quite as great an interest perhaps as the Chinese, in the preservation of the integrity of the Chinese empire. He was very glad to read the other day the Anglo-German agreement with regard to China. From this it appeared that Great Britain and Germany were agreed that no further inroads should be made upon Chinese territory, and the only regret which he felt was that the Japanese and the Americans were not also signatories to the treaty. (Hear, hear.) He believed, from what he could understand, that Japan and the United States had in principle adhered to the treaty, but it seemed to him it would have been a good thing and would have tended to the preservation of peace and good order in the Far East, if Japan and the United States had been signatories to the treaty. (Hear, hear.)

The meeting then separated.

HARMSTON'S CIRCUS.

FAREWELL PERFORMANCE.

Harmston's Circus Company gave their farewell performance on Saturday evening, the 2nd inst., before a house crammed in every part. The colony, in short, seemed to have turned out *en masse* to mark its appreciation of the efforts put forth by this popular Circus Company, during its stay in Hongkong, to interest and amuse. The riding competition for amateurs was the principal event of a programme rich in variety, an event for which there were no less than twelve entries, namely—Lieut. Walwyn, R.W.F., Lieut. Stockwell, R.W.F., Mr. A. Babington, Mr. C. H. Woodward, U.S.S. *Oregon*, Messrs. L. C. Anderson, J. F. Noble, and H. E. Moon, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Lieut. Johnson, R.W.F., Mr. R. T. Manner, Mr. G. W. Gegg, Mr. E. A. Brown, and Mr. H. Jones. Mr. Hector Sampson, of Shanghai, officiated as ringmaster during the competition. Lieut. Walwyn, who appeared dressed in a grotesque, female costume, and was announced as "Lady Walwyn, a name and personage well known in the annals of history," was the winner, going round the ring in a standing position on the horse's back five and a half times in all, out of the three tries allowed. Lieut. Stockwell was second with two and three-quarter turns. The remainder were nowhere, but created the greatest possible delight by their antics in endeavouring to pose as equestrians. The first prize was a handsome shield rack, embellished with a jockey cap, whip, and spurs; the second, a tastefully cut, enamelled inkstand. Further interest was imparted to the evening's entertainment by the entry of a sailor into the tiger's cage. He entered unhesitatingly, and drank a glass of champagne with the trainer, Mr. Gus Burns, afterwards lighting a cigarette. This turn was loudly applauded. Col. Hicks, on behalf of Mrs. Harmston Love, returned thanks for the patronage extended to the Company during its stay in the colony, and intimated that on leaving Manila, where they purpose going, a short visit would probably be paid to Hongkong on the way to Shanghai. Col. Hicks added that other performers were coming out by the first German mail. We wish the Company all success in future spheres of operations.

Harmston's Circus troupe left the harbour on Monday afternoon, 4th inst., in the s.s. *Diamante* for Manila. Before his departure Col. Hicks, Agent for the Circus, called at this office and desired us to record the thanks of the Company to the Hongkong public for the kind and considerate patronage which had been extended to them during their stay in the Colony.

MR. BERTRAM'S MARVELLOUS PERFORMANCE.

"Bertram the Great" gave a really his marvellous performance on the 4th inst in the City Hall before a large audience, who were delighted with the many tricks performed. His manipulation of a pack of cards was really wonderful, and for an hour Mr. Bertram kept the house spell-bound with his card tricks. In addition to his trickery he kept the company present in almost continual laughter with his witticisms and side talk. Next came a performance with "Zulu wedding rings, worn round the neck and not the finger," which amazed the on-lookers, and which was followed by a host of other tricks, too numerous and intricate to describe. His final exhibition, after two hours of continual trickery, with half-a-dozen cylinders was extremely clever and it was wonderful to see the multitude of things which came from apparently empty zinc cylinders. There was no deception as to the reality of the things produced from space, for he generously scattered the flowers and flags amongst the audience.

In his own favourite phrase the entertainment all through was truly "marvellous," and we have seldom enjoyed a performance of any description in the City Hall better.

Mr. Bertram gave his concluding performance on the 6th inst. His visit has undoubtedly been much appreciated by the residents of the colony inasmuch as he introduced a pleasant variety in the entertainments provided for them. We trust that this will not be Mr. Bertram's last visit to Hongkong.

JAPAN AND MANCHURIA.

A deep interest is being manifested in Japan on the subject of Manchuria, and the reply of Mr. Kato, Foreign Minister, to an interpolation in the House of Representatives, has been anxiously awaited. Last month the Russian and German Legation officials were busy telegraphing to their respective governments details of the interpolation and the Government's reply thereto. A Tokyo telegram of the 25th ult. gives the reply, forwarded to the House under date of the 23rd ult. Mr. Kato states:—

1. The Government defines the Anglo-German agreement signed on 16th October last as relating to the whole territory of the Chinese Empire.

2. The Government became a party to the agreement on this understanding.

3. The Government relies on Russia's explanation as to her occupation of Newchwang and her despatch of troops to Manchuria;—namely, that she was compelled to take these steps in restoring order and that her troops will be withdrawn from China as soon as peace is restored and the proper measures for the protection of the Manchurian railway have been concluded.

4. With regard to the alleged Russo-Chinese secret agreement, I dealt with it in my speech in the House on the 10th inst.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 4th March.

OUR ECONOMICAL VICEROY.

As a rule during the New Year the Chinese officials call upon the Viceroy to offer their New Year's greetings; but this year the new Viceroy, Tao Mu, has dispensed with such etiquette, and issued an order to the effect that henceforth any of his subordinates that call to see him should wear cotton dresses, not silk; that if they wear silk he must refuse to see them. Considering the present embarrassed state in which China finds herself, it is not proper that her officials should wear silk. The Emperor Kwang Hsu and the Empress Dowager when they escaped from Peking and took refuge in Shansi also wore cotton dresses, and the officials should on their part wear the same in sympathy with them. For the sake of economy the Viceroy's yamen (very large premises) is also dimly lighted with ordinary lamp oil at night for an hour or two, after which the place is as dark as can be, the electric light having been taken out

on account of its expense. It is customary also that whenever so high a official as the Viceroy comes to take up his post for the first time, the Sin How Koo, or Board of Re-organisation, sends him a feast composed of bird's-nest soup, shark's-fins and other delicacies, commonly known as "Sha Ma Yien" (a banquet upon alighting from a horse). This was sent to His Excellency, but he refused it, and ordered it to be taken away to the Provincial Treasurer and Prefect, as he did not want any such luxuries. The Emperor had not such dainties to eat, so why should he enjoy them?

H.E. AND HIS SUBORDINATES.

When H.E. Tao Mu left Shensi he had an audience with the Emperor, and received instructions to introduce reforms into Canton as far as circumstances would admit. On his way he called upon Chang Chi-tung, the Viceroy of Hunan and Hupeh, whom he calls his master, and who inculcated the expediency of being economical in his expenses, and strict with his subordinates. His manner of action is like this. He summons a military officer to his presence and says to him "In such and such a place there are a lot of thieves; can you go and catch them?" If the officer says "Yes, I can," he gives this order: "If you can catch or suppress the thieves you shall get promotion; otherwise you lose your button." If the officer says "No, I cannot," then His Excellency says, "Oh, you had better remain in your post without promotion." The general opinion is if the military suppress or destroy all thieves and pirates there will be no more work for them to do, and they will lose their chance of making money.

RUMOURED ANTI-GAMBLING LAW.

It is rumoured that the Viceroy intends to stop all gambling and lotteries, and to increase the revenue derived from salt. It is an unwise policy, considering the present state of China, for salt does not yield so large a revenue as gambling, nor can gambling be wholly suppressed, as the Chinese, like the Malays, are born gamblers, and would gamble all the same. Those who will get most of the benefit from prohibition are the military officers and local gentry, for they will have their chance again to squeeze and receive hush-money for permitting gambling to be carried on secretly.

A FORTHCOMING CENSUS.

A registration office is to be established this year, and a census taken of the boat population in the Canton river, under the management of two *weiquins*.

A NOT VERY RETIRED BRIGAND.

Ao Sun, who has been a brigand chief, a pirate, a general of the Chinese army, a renegade, and a priest, is now a retired gentleman in Shon-Tak, having a large house with many attendants, wife and concubines. His associates go out to levy blackmail in his name, while he lives on the spoil.

THE END OF A FAITHLESS FRIEND.

Wong A Ngan was a native of Tung Kun, living in Honam and following the trade of a mat-manufacturer, while his friend Lao Lai and his wife Ao Sz were living next door. Ao Sz was young and beautiful, but her husband, Lao, was an opium-smoker, and a man of no fixed occupation; so the two often passed days without a regular meal. Wong A Ngan, living next to them, and being their friend, had very often given them pecuniary aid and other necessities. As time went on Wong fell in love with Ao. One day Wong invited Lao to sup in a flower boat, and while under the influence of wine, stabbed the latter and threw him into the river. The following morning he went into Lao's house, and taking away whatever he could, eloped with Ao. But Lao was not drowned at once, and was rescued from the water by another boat; he was able to relate what had occurred, though he died shortly afterwards. Wong and Ao had escaped and taken refuge in Po Kong, Honam. From their suspicious behaviour and from information received, the soldiers of that locality arrested them and took them before the Panyu Magistrate. After strict examination at the trial, the Magistrate was satisfied that Wong was guilty, and he and Ao were kept in prison pending the order of the Viceroy. Wong has been decapitated, and Ao was released on bail, sometime about the end of last year, by her mother.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 16th February.

ALLIES THREATEN THE CHINESE.

Somewhat alarming rumours are finding currency and credit in military circles here just now, viz., that the Ministers have this week sent in to the Chinese something of the nature of an ultimatum, to the effect that if they do not expedite matters in the settlement of peace, three expeditions will be dispatched to traverse Chihli and Shansi. My personal opinion is that if the Allies wish to bring pressure on the Court they will do it by means of the Yangtze Valley approaches to Hsian and by cutting off supplies. Thus I am very sceptical as to the authenticity of the current reports. On the other hand there are many evidences that the high military authorities are far less sanguine than they were of an early embarkation in the spring; for example they are showing great interest in the improvement of the Peiho, and in the early delivery of military supplies of all kinds; houses for military occupation are at as high a premium as ever in Tientsin and a great deal of topographic work is on hand in all the forces.

THE WINTER—BRITISH ORGANISATION TRIUMPHS.

Until the last week the winter has been one of the very best on record; temperatures have been occasionally low and on two or three occasions we have registered "below zero" on Fahrenheit but there has been a fine absence of wind and dust storms. Open air skating has been enjoyed to an extent previously unknown, though the days have witnessed constant sunshine. The Indian troops have on the whole stood the ordeal of the severe weather well; colds and pneumonia have been prevalent among them and especially among the camp-followers, but our sick lists compare very favourably with those of all the other forces. I shall hardly be credited when I say that the Germans have fared very badly in this way. At one time, in Tientsin alone, there were 600 in hospital with dysentery, enteric, and pneumonia, and their fatalities have been out of all proportion to their numbers. It is difficult to explain this, as their hospitals are models of all that field hospitals should be. Some say it is chiefly due to defective equipment; if so it is very much opposed to the prevailing notions on the subject. But if their mortality in men is exceptional, that of their horses is still more astonishing. They, like ourselves, got up a lot of walers in the autumn; it would not be too much to say that they have lost three for every one of the British; nor can there be much doubt that this is wholly due to deficiency in supply. Their horse-clothing is insufficient, their stabling poor, and even their food is in marked contrast with ours. A British horse gets five (? six) pounds of oats, two pounds of bran and fifteen pounds of hay per diem; indeed he is munching all the time. The German gets as much grain, but his hay is only five pounds daily, and he is on the whole a harder worked animal. These matters are worthy of mention, if only from the fact that we are always growling in public at the follies and failures of our own military organisation and are apt to think that bad administration is a British monopoly. It is just as well to know that now and then we are as good as our neighbours, and can in some things beat the great exemplars of the military art.

AN UNPLEASANT CHANGE OF WEATHER.

During the last week there has been a marked and very unpleasant change in the weather; existence has been a misery to man and beast alike, from piercing winds and omnipresent dust. The coast of Chihli has been frozen, and no steamers have been able to get within six miles of the shore at Chingwangtao, the so-called ice-free port of the future. Happily this has only obtained for a few days; but once or twice every decade it is bound to happen and to disorganise all the mail services, &c. There was a narrow escape from a fatal accident there last week, when two raw lads insisted on leaving the steamer to cross seven miles of ice-pack. They failed to get ashore, and had to spend the night on the floe without food or overcoats in a temperature close on zero (Fahr.); when they finally